

F.NO. G-12(3)/98-NGO

परम गोपनीय  
TOP SECRET

प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

(एन० जी० ओ० अनुभाग)

(N. G. O. SECTION)

फाइल नं० G-12(3)/98-NGO  
File No. ....

विषय :— (कृपया इस आवरण को उलटें)  
(SUBJECT :— Please Turn Over)

Declassified with  
the approval of  
Int. Secy. to PM.

Signature  
29/1/16  
S.O. (N40)

कहाँ भेजा Passed to	कब भेजा On	कहाँ भेजा Passed to	कब भेजा On	कहाँ भेजा Passed to	कब भेजा On

CONTENTS			
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विषय :—

Subject :—

Transfer of the Ashes of  
Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose  
to India

संबद्ध फाईलें :—

Connected Files :—

नं०

No.

विषय :—

Subject :—

किस तारीख को निकाली गई B/F Date	किस क्रमसंख्या के लिए निकाली गई For Serial No.	किस क्रम सं० का निपटान हुआ Disposal Serial No.	टिप्पणी Remarks



INTERNAL

**Subject : Ashes of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose**

1212/c  
Reference letter No.Bon/Amb/98-5(C) dated 3 March 1998 from Ambassador Lambah on the above subject.

2. The substance of the letter is based on a discussion he had on 2 March 1998 with Dr. Anita Pfaff, daughter of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. Dr. Pfaff conveyed that she had not consulted all the family members regarding the proposal to move the ashes to India, but was confident that it would be acceptable to the family. She was also keen that there should be a national consensus among the political parties on this subject and that the best time for transferring them to India would be the second half of 1998. Some consultations with the Japanese authorities, particularly the priests at the Renkoji Temple, would also be essential.

3. In terms of action at our end, the most important requirement is to consult the various political parties, since there is a body of opinion which maintains, that in fact, Netaji is still alive and the entire issue remains somewhat controversial. This will need to be got out of the way before further action can be taken.

P. P. Shukla

(P P. Shukla)

JS (P)

14 Mar 98

Principal Secretary to PM

He shd put up to meet Pm.  
Meanwhile, suitable tentative reply  
from me to Amb Lambah.

JS(P)

16/3

PMO (NCO)  
Dy. No. 9/5/8/98  
Date 20-3-98

119/TS/Asst Secy PM 58  
16-3-98

7-129/25(0)/98  
16/3/98

INTERNAL/  
TOP SECRET

**Subject: Return of Netaji's ashes to India**

*Pgs 1-2/c*

Ambassador Lambah had written to Principal Secretary to PM on the above subject, on the basis of a recent discussion he had with Netaji's daughter, Dr. Anita Pfaff. Principal Secretary had sought MEA's views, which have been received in the form of a brief note enclosing their files on the subject.

2. The details of the case may be seen in the background note prepared in MEA on the subject **(Flag-1)**. Although it is undated, it is clear that the note was prepared in December 1995 as may be seen from the yellow sticker attached.

3. In brief, the background is that two Commissions of Inquiry had been set up to determine the fate of Netaji. The first was the Shah Nawaz Committee, set up in 1956, which included Netaji's brother, Suresh Chandra Bose. This was a three-member Committee and two members, including the Chairman, concluded that Netaji had died in an air crash at Taihoku (Taiwan) on 18 August 1945. Netaji's brother dissented and recorded his own views. GOI accepted the majority verdict.

4. A second, single-member, Committee, comprising of Justice G.D. Khosla, was set up in 1970 and came to the same conclusion, which was again accepted by GOI. Nonetheless, the controversy did not die down and Shri Samar Guha, MP moved a motion in Parliament in August

1977 urging the Government to set up one more Inquiry Commission. In 1978, the then Prime Minister (Shri Morarji Desai) made a statement clarifying that "no useful purpose would be served by having any further inquiry". The matter was accordingly dropped.

5. The ashes purported to be Netaji's are kept in the Renkoji Temple in Tokyo and there have been repeated proposals for them to be transferred to India. They are, at present, being looked after by Japanese associates of Netaji, but many of them are getting on in years. Some of them have therefore requested us to take custody of the ashes and transfer them to India and take a decision on the basis of a national consensus on what we wish to do with the ashes. This matter was examined in CCPA on 20 February 1991 which took the view that "no useful purpose would be served by holding yet another enquiry or by bringing the ashes back to India at present as this might create unnecessary tensions". The matter was discussed again in the Cabinet on 8 February 1995 and it was decided that the ashes would not be brought back to India for the present but that the dependability of the arrangements in Japan should be examined. This was done and it was felt that we could raise our annual upkeep contribution from ¥ 600,000 to ¥ 1 million.

6. Former EAM (Shri Pranab Mukherjee) visited Japan in September 1995 and visited the Renkoji Temple and also discussed this issue with the Japanese Foreign Minister. The latter said that there was no inconvenience involved in retaining the ashes in Japan, but personally felt that it would be better to return them to his homeland and to his family.

EAM said that he would consult Netaji's daughter as the nearest surviving kin.

7. EAM visited Germany in October 1995 and met Dr. Anita Pfaff, who said that the ashes should be brought to Germany if their return to India was a matter of controversy. To this, it was pointed out that Japan was not in favour of moving the ashes to any third country. She also discussed the possibility of a suitable memorial for Netaji in India. EAM made no comment on this.

8. A view has also been held that Netaji had been captured by the Russians after the Second World War and had been kept in captivity there. This is the view of those who believe that Netaji did not die in the air crash as conventional belief would have it. To ascertain the facts on this matter, we had approached the Russian Government after the collapse of the Soviet Union. In October 1995, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed to us that there was no information to substantiate the view that Netaji had come to the Soviet Union after the Second World War. However, the proponents of this view are not satisfied with this and wish to see the Soviet records for themselves.

9. In the FR from Ambassador Lambah and its enclosed letter from Dr. Anita Pfaff, it is recommended that the ashes should be brought back to India. However, Dr. Pfaff feels that a national consensus is required for this.

10. Getting a national consensus does not appear to be easy, as the version of Netaji's death in the air crash is not universally accepted. That being so, doubts are also expressed with regard to the ashes being those of Netaji. Shri Ashis Ray (former CNN Bureau Chief here), a great-nephew of Netaji, had written to PM suggesting a DNA examination, but this, too, appears unacceptable to other members of the family. Ultimately, it will require a political consensus among the various political parties.

11. Dr. Pfaff has been to India twice in order to build up a consensus in favour of the return of the ashes, but is clearly uncertain about the results of her efforts. She is equally uncertain about a consensus within the family. Her last visit was in January 1998, during which she had called on the previous PM. She has, as mentioned above, expressed the hope that the new Government would take account of her wishes and bring back the ashes to India.

12. This is where matters stand at present and a decision needs to be taken on whether the ashes are indeed those of Netaji and, if so, whether they can now be brought back to India. From the above, it is clear that there is no particular urgency in settling this matter. However, a view needs to be taken on how to deal with this issue in the future.

P. P. Shukla  
[P.P. Shukla]  
JS[P]  
1 April 98

Prl. Secretary to PM

154/TS/R Secy to PM/98  
1.4.98

201-11601  
1998/1/15/98  
Date: 16.4.98

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T-164/JS(P)/98  
1/4/98





Sl No 1 (12)

**CONFIDENTIAL**



AMBASSADOR OF INDIA

ADENAUERALLEE 262-264  
53113 BONN

TEL: 54 05 11 3 + 54 05 11 4  
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TELEX: 8869 301

No. Bon/Amb/98- 5 (C)

March 3, 1998

My dear Principal Secretary,

Prof. Dr. (Mrs.) Anita Pfaff, daughter of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, had dinner with me at my residence yesterday. She handed over a letter addressed to the Prime Minister. I enclose the original letter along with a copy. The main point made in the letter is that she is agreeable for bringing the ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Japan to India.

2 The subject of the return of ashes has been discussed informally with Prof. Anita Pfaff for some time.

3 On instructions from the then External Affairs Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, I had been asked to ascertain the views of Prof. Anita Pfaff. She and her husband Dr. Martin Pfaff, who is a Member of Parliament, came to my house on 28th September, 1995 for dinner. I found that both of them were in favour of return of the ashes to India but, at that time, did not take any categorical stand.

4 Later, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the then External Affairs Minister transited through Germany on October 21, 1995 to meet Prof. Anita Pfaff. I accompanied him to Augsburg. He had a long discussion with Prof. Anita Pfaff in which different viewpoints were expressed. While she was favourably inclined to return of the ashes, she was not sure about the timings. Some family members advised her that it may be preferable to get them after Netaji's centenary year celebrations were over in India. We also met her mother Mrs. Emilie Schenkl-Bose.

5 A few months later, Mrs. Emilie Schenkl-Bose passed away in March, 1996. I accompanied the then Minister of State for Finance Mr. Debiprosad Pal to Augsburg for the funeral on 18th March, 1996.

6 Prof. Anita Pfaff was invited by the then EAM to visit India but the visit was postponed on account of her ill-health. When Netaji's centenary celebrations started, no invitation was initially issued to Prof. Anita Pfaff. However, when we came to know that Mrs. Jyotsna Bose was being invited as her son lives in Hamburg (she lives in Calcutta) and the invitation was, by mistake, sent to the Embassy. We got in touch with the Ministry of Culture who immediately sent an invitation to Prof. Anita Pfaff but she could not attend due to the short notice.

PRIN. SECY to PM

1620-6/98

Date 10/3/98

11/3/98

Date 10/3/98

20-3-98



7 PM, when he was EAM, transited through Frankfurt on 9th February, 1997. He asked me to renew the invitation extended by his predecessor to Prof. Anita Pfaff. Subsequently, Prof. Anita Pfaff visited India in March/April, 1997 and again in January, 1998. She met the President and PM. The enclosed letter to PM, she told me, is a continuation of the discussions she had with PM in Delhi on January 25, 1998..

8 During the discussions yesterday, Prof. Anita Pfaff told me :

- (i) Amongst the family members, she had so far only consulted Dr. Sisir Kumar Bose. After the letter reaches PM, she would be informing some other members. She still expects that some of them would oppose the move but she felt her decision will have a positive impact on the family.
- (ii) She was keen that there is a national consensus among the political parties on this subject.
- (iii) As regards the timing, in case a positive decision is taken by the Government, she felt that some date in the second half of the year could be considered for bringing the ashes to India.
- (iv) In that eventuality, she would like detailed consultations by the Government of India with the Japanese authorities, particularly the Priests at the Renkoji temple in Tokyo.
- (v) She was appreciative of the two seminars on Netaji held by the Embassy as a part of 50th anniversary celebrations of India's Independence. (The first one was on June 7, 1997 organised by the Indian Cultural Centre, Berlin and the second seminar was on 16th February, 1998 in Frankfurt where Netaji's associates Col. Gurbakhsh Singh Dhillon and Col. Lakshmi Sehgal were the Guests of Honour).

9 I shall be grateful if you could kindly get Dr. Pfaff's letter examined. We can subsequently inform her of the decision which is taken.

10 I am sending a copy of this letter, along with the enclosure, to Foreign Secretary.

*Warm regards*

Yours sincerely,

*Satinder K. Lambah*

(Satinder K. Lambah)

Shri N.N. Vohra,  
Principal Secretary to PM  
PMO,  
New Delhi

Copy, with a copy of the enclosure, to Shri K. Raghunath, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.

Prof. Dr. Anita B. Pfaff

Haldenweg 23  
D-86391 Stadtlengen  
Federal Republic of Germany  
Tel.: 0049-821-434812  
Fax.: 0049-821-438807 or 432531

To  
His Excellency  
The Prime Minister of India  
Mr. I. K. Gujral  
Prime Minister's House  
7, Race Course  
New Delhi  
India

By Diplomatic Bag

February 24, 1998

Respected Prime Minister,

Following up on our conversation during my last visit to New Delhi on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 1998, I would like to address myself to you in writing – and through you to the Government of India – with regard to the question of establishing a suitable memorial for my father Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and finding an honourable and satisfactory settlement to the somewhat controversial question of the return of his ashes from Renkoji Temple in Tokyo, Japan to India.

I was very pleased that my father's birth centenary was celebrated in all parts of India and many projects were initiated in his memory and in his name in the course of these celebrations. I am particularly grateful to the Government of India and the State Governments as well as to many groups and the people of India in general who helped make these functions and activities memorable and dignified occasions in Netaji's honour. I do hope that in the course and sequence of his birth centenary some public funding for the collection and preservation of documents referring to my father's efforts in the struggle for India's independence could also be assured. So far it had, after all, largely been the private activity and voluntary work of members of the Netaji Research Bureau which was motivated by the wish to obtaining historically important documents before they got lost or destroyed by the passage of time.

I am aware that one reason for not providing a memorial to my father of a similar quality as, for example, for Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was to be found in the controversy about the circumstances of my father's death. As you know, even now some people are not even willing to admit to the fact that – after 101 years – he is no longer alive, leave alone to accept the circumstances of his reported death.

While it is true that some inconsistencies exist in the reports of the air crash at Taihoku Airport in August 1945, in which he was reported to have died, this is not too surprising – given the fact, that those days at the end of World War II in the Far East must have been traumatic and confusing days of turmoil. It is also understandable that following the first reports of this plane crash many people, including my mother and my uncle Sarat Chandra Bose, thought that in view of his previous escapes (from house arrest in Calcutta to Germany and by submarine from Germany to the Far East) this may be but another one of his fantastic get-aways. Ultimately their great affection for him let them hope that he had survived and would yet again return to India.

As time passed this became less and less likely. What would have kept him from returning to India after India attained independence? In my opinion but one alternative could have accounted for such a sequence of history: That one explanation would have been his escape to the Soviet Union and his

10 (NGO)  
94/5/98  
Date... 20-3-98



death on the way there or his execution or imprisonment and subsequent death in a Soviet concentration camp. Since after the opening of the Soviet archives no such evidence has been found to my knowledge, it should be evident also to those who have harboured doubts about the validity of the reports on the plane crash, that the probability approaches certainty that he died in this event as a martyr for his country's freedom. In this act he made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his life, which he had risked over and over in his non-violent as well as his armed struggle for India's freedom.

His Japanese comrades-in-arms have maintained his ashes in Tokyo, honoured him and paid homage to him. It is their wish that his ashes be returned to India with due honour, in line with their religious beliefs. Furthermore they are concerned that after their demise there would be nobody to care for his memory in Japan. I know that there have been some people in India – including members of my family – who did not wish the Government to take such an action, as, for a variety of reasons, they did not accept the reports of his death following the plane crash at Taihoku as factual. Even these people, who persist in their doubt, should, however, be able to accept the transfer of his ashes from Tokyo to India as a token of respect to his memory and a symbol of his sacrifice and martyrdom for India.

I therefore request the Government of India to make arrangements to have the reported ashes of my father returned from Tokyo to his homeland, especially to Delhi, which after all was the goal of his INA campaign. The ashes should then be immersed in the Ganges or parts of the ashes in different rivers of India. I am quite willing to participate with my husband and my children in the process of transferring the ashes – paying due respect to Japanese customs, whatever they may be. (If, for example, according to Japanese rites a male descendent should physically carry the ashes, my sons could do so.)

Furthermore I request the Government of India to erect, in the near future, a memorial in Delhi to my father's memory in line with the importance of his contribution to India's struggle for independence. By now historical evidence shows, I believe beyond doubt, that not only can his and the Indian National Army's efforts be saluted as heroic and selfsacrificing, but that the political effect of their actions was a major factor in destabilizing Britain's hold on India and thereby prominently contributed towards India's attaining independence.

Even though I do not know at this stage how the new government will be composed, following the ongoing elections, I hope that this request will be honoured by whoever may be forming the new government. It is furthermore my sincerest wish that all political parties of India could join together in this effort, irrespective of their political programmes. Moreover, potential controversy on account of the diminishing number of persons opposed to a transfer of Netaji's ashes should best be faced jointly and not exploited individually. I am certainly willing to bear my share of the responsibility for such action. It is my belief that Dr. Sisir Kumar Bose who is not only the founder-director of the Netaji Research Bureau but also the eldest surviving male member of my generation of the Bose family, will fully agree with my proposal. I would, however, find it most deplorable, should some political groups dishonour Netaji's memory and contribution, by creating a petty controversy for possibly selfish reasons.

With many thanks and respectful regards, Jai Hind!

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Anita B. Pfaff

*Prof. Dr. Anita B. Pfaff*

*Haldenweg 23*

*D-86391 Stadtbergen*

*Federal Republic of Germany*

*Tel.: 0049-821-434812*

*Fax.: 0049-821-438807 or 432531*

To  
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With many thanks and respectful regards, Jai Hind!

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Anita B. Pfaff

S. No. 2 (I)

URGENT  
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7

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Reference Ambassador Lambah's letter No. Bon/Amb/98-5(c) dated 3 March 1998 regarding the transfer of the ashes of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose to India.

2. The facts of the case and views of MEA are urgently requested.

(P.P. Shukla)  
Joint Secretary (PMO)  
20 Mar 98

Foreign Secretary

PMO U.O. No. 6-12 (3)/98-NGO

dated 20-3-98

Issued with a/c.  
20/3/98

94/5/98  
20-3-98



**P.P. Shukla**  
**Joint Secretary to PM**

15 April 1998  
16

Dear Shri Haldar,

Please refer to our telephone conversation yesterday regarding Netaji's ashes.

2. I enclose a news item from The Hindustan Times reporting that the Calcutta High Court has ruled that the ashes should not be brought back until Netaji's death has been conclusively proved. I shall be grateful if you could kindly let me know the facts regarding the High Court ruling.

Yours sincerely,

[P.P. Shukla]

Shri B.K. Haldar,  
Joint Secretary (IS),  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
New Delhi

PMO (NGO)  
134/5/98  
Date... 16/4/98

Issued  
16/4/98

(9)

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 4th April 98

## Netaji's ashes can't be brought to India: HC

CALCUTTA, April 8 (HTC)

A division bench of the Calcutta High Court, including the Chief Justice P. S. Mishra and Justice Barin Ghosh, has forbid the bringing of the ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from the Renkoji temple of Japan to India till Netaji's death could be proved conclusively.

Giving their judgment on Tuesday on a writ petition moved by Mr Subrata Mookherjee on behalf of Mr Asim Ganguly, the court observed that till the Indian Gov-

ernment announced its final judgment concerning Subhas Bose's death, the ashes could not be brought to India on any account.

Earlier, Defence Minister under the United Front Government Mulayam Singh Yadav had announced that the ashes would be brought to India from Japan by the Indian Government.

Mr Ganguly, a lawyer himself, filed the public interest petition before the Calcutta High Court soon after Mr Yadav's announce-

ment. Pleading before the division bench, Mr Mookherjee said that till the Indian Government come out with a final announcement regarding Subhas Bose's death, could not be proved whether the ashes preserved in the Renkoji temple in Japan were mortal remains of Subhas Bose.

As such, the Centre would have to announce Subhas Bose's death through a gazette notification before setting in motion the process of bringing over ashes from the Japan temple to India.

Pr the

for kind info

P.P.S.

10/14

Please link this with the file on Netaji's ashes and draft a suitable reply for Amb. Lambah.

Bogach Mishra

11/4.

JS (1)



13 APR 1998

## BJP ready to consider new Netaji probe

BY BISHWANATH GHOSH

New Delhi, April 12: The Vajpayee government has agreed to consider the Forward Bloc demand to set up an inquiry into the "mysterious disappearance" of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

A Forward Bloc delegation led by its general secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Debabrata Biswas last week met Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, who assured them that his government "would look into their demands."

The party does not believe that Netaji died in an aircrash in Taiwan, and had requested former Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao and L.K. Gujral to probe Netaji's "mysterious disappearance." "They did not take any steps. I hope Mr Vajpayee will do something," Mr Biswas told *The Asian Age* on Sunday.

During the meeting, the Forward Bloc delegation also demanded land from the government to set up an institute

■ Turn to Page 2

## New probe on Netaji

■ Continued from Page 1

in memory of Netaji, which would conduct research on his writings and philosophy. "If the government can bring out books on Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and have a Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, then why can't it do something about Netaji?" Mr Biswas asked.

The delegation also gave various suggestions for Netaji's birth centenary celebrations. "The coming generations should know about the philosophy of Netaji and his contribution to the freedom struggle," Mr Biswas said. He said the Forward Bloc would hold public conventions in all state capitals next month, to which all associates and followers of Netaji would be invited.

The Forward Bloc is demanding the declassification of all the 7,000-odd files on the Indian National Army, "so that the country's youth could be educated about the INA's role in the freedom struggle." Of these files, only 750 were declassified by the Gujral government," Mr Biswas said.

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The Forward Bloc is demanding the declassification of all the 7,000-odd files on the Indian National Army, "so that the country's youth could be educated about the INA's role in the freedom struggle." Of these files, only 750 were declassified by the Gujral government," Mr Biswas said.

13 APR 1998

## BJP ready to consider new Netaji probe

BY BISHWANATH GHOSH

New Delhi, April 12: The Vajpayee government has agreed to consider the Forward Bloc demand to set up an inquiry into the "mysterious disappearance" of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

A Forward Bloc delegation led by its general secretary and Rajya Sabha MP

Debabrata Biswas last week met Prime Minister Atal Behari Vaj-

payee, who assured them that his government "would look into their demands."

The party does not believe that Netaji died in an aircrash in Taiwan, and had requested former Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao and I.K. Gujral to probe Netaji's "mysterious disappearance." "They did not take any steps. I hope Mr Vajpayee will do something," Mr Biswas told *The Asian Age* on Sunday.

During the meeting, the Forward Bloc delegation also demanded land from the government to set up an institute

■ Turn to Page 2

## New probe on Netaji

■ Continued from Page 1

in memory of Netaji, which would conduct research on his writings and philosophy. "If the government can bring out books on Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and have a Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, then why can't it do something about Netaji?" Mr Biswas asked.

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The Forward Bloc is demanding the declassification of all the 7,000-odd files on the Indian National Army, "so that the country's youth could be educated about the INA's role in the freedom struggle." Of these files, only 750 were declassified by the Gujral government," Mr Biswas said.



NGO Section.

(13)

Reference JS(P)'s remarks on FR.

- (2) We have checked up our records. We do not have any file <sup>in NHO</sup> on the Report/Findings of either the Shah Nawaz Committee or the Khosla Committee which inquired into Netaji Subhas Ch. Bose's death in an air crash in 1945. However placed below are three files in which proposals to bring the mortal remains/ashes of the Leader from Japan to India were discussed/examined, for perusal, Sir.

- (1) G-16(3)/95-NHO
- (2) G-4(2)/95-NHO
- (3) G-12(18)/94-NHO

- (3) NHO file No. G-12(3)/98-NHO (containing Indian Amb. to Bonn Shri S.K. Lamba's letter together with a letter from Netaji's daughter) ref. transfer of Ashes, is already under submission to JS(P) since 31-3-98.

JS  
14/98.

JS(P)

DEBABRATA BISWAS

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(RAJYA SABHA)

SI No. 4(R)



Phone : 3714131

28, Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Road,  
New Delhi-110 001

HEMANT BASU BHAWAN  
49-C, Chittaranjan Avenue,  
CALCUTTA-700 012

Ph. : 272065, 273956

Date: 04.04.1998.

Dear Prime Minister,

Sadar Pranam,

You are no doubt aware that sometime in 1978, Shri Morarji Desai the then Prime Minister of India declared in the Lok Sabha that the Government of India did not accept the findings of either the Shah Nawaz Committee or the Khosla Committee regarding the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in aircrash in August, 1945. He also assured the House further the Government of India would soon appointed a third Commission on the subject to find out the correct position in this regard. But although a period of 20 years has passed no Commission has been set up to go into the matter.

You will no doubt agree that leaders like Netaji Subhas Bose did not belong to any particular party or political group but belonged to the nation as a whole and as such the whole country is entitled to know the whole truth about this eminent freedom fighter and national leader. I would, therefore, beseech you kindly to send another Commission of enquiry consisting of eminent and impartial men whose credentials would universally accepted to go into the matter so that the mystery about the disappearance of Netaji may be finally settled once and for all.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(DEBABRATA BISWAS,) M.P.  
GENERAL SECRETARY,  
ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee,  
Prime Minister of India,  
NEW DELHI.

PMO (NGO)  
Dy. No. 44/4/98  
Date: 7-4-98

PR. SECY to PM.

DY No. 110-V/98  
Date: 6/4/98

73/VIR/JS(P)/98  
6/4/98

T-82/JS(P)/98  
5/4

*Sri Bipin Bihary Ratho*

SENIOR ADVOCATE  
ORISSA HIGH COURT

PRESIDENT HIGH COURT BAR ASSOCIATION, ORISSA  
WORKING PRESIDENT, V.H.P, ORISSA.

Sl. No. 5

KANIKA ROAD  
CUTTACK - 753-008  
ORISSA  
TEL (R) & (O) : (STD-0671)  
602734, 601284  
Dt. 06/05/1998

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Mishraji,

Namaste,

Hope you are doing fine. I venture to bother you again with another letter. Kindly excuse me. I am so happy to note that the Prime Minister has announced for setting up a commission to enquire into the mysterious disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, so also the Calcutta High Court recently in a public interest litigation has directed the Central government to set up such a commission. In my letter dt. 15.2.1998 to Shriman Atalji, the then Prime Minister in the waiting, I wrote suggesting to set up two commissions, when he takes over charge as the P.M, one for the disappearance of Subhas Chandra Bose and the other to enquiry into the causes of death of late Shymaprasad Mokherjee in Sreenagar Jail. One of my requests is going to be fulfilled, I shall be happy if the other could be done. Ofcourse, that is difficult in the sence that at the moment we have friendly relationship with Dr. Farook Abdulla and if enquiry commission will be set up to findout the causes of death of late Shymaprasad Mookherjee that will surely reveal the conspiracy between Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Seikh Abdulla father of Dr. Farook Abdulla, to that. Any way it is up to the Prime Minister to decide. In case my assistance is needed in the matter I would be ever willing.

I also understand that a committee is going to be constituted to suggest amendments to our constitution. I

PRL. SECY to PM. had earlier in my suggestions indicated about the same. Out

DY No. 372-P/98  
Date 12/5/98

2441/M/25(P)/98  
13/5/98

2441/M/25(P)/98  
Dy. No. 953/98  
Date 14-7-98

*Lh.*  
*12/5*

*TS (P)*

*A*

*What became  
of our mti  
a mti?*

*PPS  
13/5/98*

*At F/A Mr.  
hs*

*2441/5*

*14/7*

*N/A*



*Sri Bipin Bihary Ratho*

SENIOR ADVOCATE  
ORISSA HIGH COURT

16  
KANJIKA ROAD  
CUTTACK - 753-008  
ORISSA  
TEL (R) & (O) : (STD-0671)  
602734, 601284

/2/

of my own experience and indepth study of the constitution during the past over forty years, I have many suggestions to make. If I am found suitable to be included in the committee well and good, otherwise, if informed in time, I can send my suggestions. For your kind information, on request from the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee On home affairs, I had offered certain suggestions to be incorporated in the Lokpal Bill. Most of my suggestions were accepted and included which is available in the "Committee on Home Affairs Fourth Report on the Lokpal Bill, 1996", presented to both the House of Parliament on the 9th May, 1997. Copy of letter of Shri Sompal, M.F.(Rajyasabha), Chairman Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs dt. June 20, 1997 is enclosed. As intimated to you earlier, I have specific suggestions for amendment of various acts including the constitution and the Representation of the People Act. Please do not hesitate to ask for my assistance as and when so required. You have my bio-data with you for reference.

With deep regards.

Yours sincerely,

*B. B. Ratho*  
Shri Brajesh Mishra  
Principal Secretary to Prime Minister (B.B.Ratho) 6.5.98  
Prime Minister's Office  
New Delhi-110 011.

**SOMPAL**

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(RAJYA SABHA)  
CHAIRMAN

PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON HOME AFFAIRS



121, Parliament House Annex  
New Delhi-110 001. Tel. : 3034121, 3012009

28, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi-110 003  
Tel 4624886 Fax 4629147

No.RS.6(2)/96-C.S.(HA)

Dated: June 20, 1997

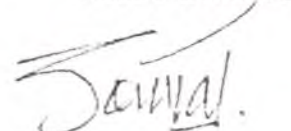
Dear Shri Ratho,

I take this opportunity to convey thanks on my behalf as well as on behalf of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for the valuable suggestions made by you on the Lokpal Bill, 1996. These have been very useful and have helped the Committee to undertake an indepth examination of the Bill and formulate its recommendations on various provisions contained therein.

I am pleased to enclose herewith a copy of the Report of the Committee which was presented to both the Houses of Parliament on May 9, 1997, for your kind reference.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
( Sompal )

Shri B.B. Ratho,  
Sr. Advocate President,  
High Court Bar Association,  
Orissa, Kanika Road,  
Cuttack-753008.

S/ No. 6  
Secret

P.P. Shukla  
Joint Secretary to PM

D.O. No: G.12(3)/98-NGO

16 July 1998

Dear Shri Halдар,

Please refer to my d.o. letter of even number dated 15/16 April 1998 regarding Netaji's ashes.

2. I shall be grateful if you could kindly let me have the facts regarding the High Court ruling which were asked for.

Yours sincerely,

  
[P.P. Shukla]

Shri B.K. Halдар,  
Joint Secretary (IS),  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
New Delhi

T-374/ISCP/98  
16/7/98

RECD NGO  
By: [Signature]  
Date: 16/7/98




NGO Letter.

p. 8/c

✓ p. 18/c  
Ref. JS(P)'s d.o. letter dt. <sup>16</sup>15-4-98  
at p. 8/c and subsequent reminder  
dt. 16-7-98 to Shri B.K. Haldar, Joint  
Secretary (IS), MHA, regarding Netaji's  
ashes, refers. No reply has been  
received from MHA so far.

2. For consideration whether  
another reminder need go to MHA.


21/8/98


  
21/08/98  
Dg Noo



B  
p. 8/c  
PVS  
21/8/98

JS(P) had spoken to JS(IS) of MHA  
who will send reply.

  
24/8/98

Do(Ng) 

SI No. 7

20

SECRET

Immediate

Government of India  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
.....

PMO may kindly refer to their letter No.G.12(3)/98-NGO dated 16th July, 1998 on the subject of a news item from the 'Hindustan Times' reporting that the Calcutta High Court has ruled that ashes should not be brought back until Netaji's death has been conclusively proved. For necessary follow up we have been pursuing this matter with our Central Government Advocate in Calcutta (Smt. S.Bhattacharya). We have requested her for a copy of the judgement in Writ Petition No. 1805/97 in case Asim Kumar Ganguly Vs. Union of India. There has been no response from the Central Government Advocate so far. We have even written to Registrar, Calcutta High Court requesting him for a copy of the judgement. The last communication to our Central Government Advocate has been sent through IB bag. We have written to her again. As soon as a copy of the judgement is received, we will be able to report the factual position in detail to PMO.

24.8.98.  
(A.K.Paitandy)  
Director (IS.I)

Sh. P.P.Shukla, Joint Secretary to PM, PM's Office, N. Delhi  
MHA U.O.NO.VI.11034/114/97-IS(D.III) Dated 24.8.98

PPS  
25/VIII

25/8

25/8

10.35/15/98  
31-08-78

3947/86/19  
28/8

4474/33(P)/M/98  
25/8

SI No. 8

SECRET  
PRIORITY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

\*\*\*\*\*  
12/17

12/12

PMO may kindly refer to their letter No.G.12 (3)/ 98-NGO, dated 16th April, 1998 and 16th July, 1998 on the subject of a news item from the 'Hindustan Times' reporting that the Calcutta High Court has ruled that ashes should not be brought back until Netaji's death has been conclusively proved. Deptt. of Legal Affairs, Calcutta has forwarded a certified copy of the order dated 7.4.1998 (copy enclosed) wherein it has been stated that 'the Government of India shall obtain full particulars and evidence and satisfy itself about the genuineness of the claim that the ashes kept at the Renkoji Temple of Japan are that of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and take the people of India in confidence.

*[Signature]*  
10.9.98  
(A.K. Paitandy)  
Director (IS.I)

Shri P.P. Shukla, Joint Secretary to PM, PM's Office  
MHA U.O.No.VI/11034/114/97-IS(D.III) Dated, the 10.9.98

IPS.  
12/17

Di'm (5)

NGO

Submitted for further  
directions, w.r.to order of  
Hl. Secy to Govt on p. 9/c.

385/TS/21 v(S)/98  
16/9

4732/TS(P)/14/98  
10/5

PMO (NGO)  
Dy. No. 1056  
15-51-98

Di'm (5)

JS(P)

IPS.  
16/17

15/9/98  
20/NGO

15/9  
17

17/4

NGO

Di'm (5)



W.P. BENEF No 1805

OP 1997

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA  
Constitutional Writ Jurisdiction  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
Original Side



(52)

/ Seal / 28-17 5/18

13/1  
Kajal K. Ganguly  
27/10/97  
13/9

The Hon'ble The Chief Justice

And

The Hon'ble Justice

Sarín Ghosh

President of the Union of India

In the Matter of : An application under Article 226 of the Constitution of India;

And

In the Matter of : Public Interest Litigation ;

And

In the Matter of : A writ in the nature of Mandamus ;

And

In the Matter of : A writ in the nature of Certiorari ;

And

In the Matter of : Prohibition and/or any other such appropriate writ or writs, order or orders, direction or directions ;

And

In the Matter of : Investigation in connection with the ashes of Netaji Subhas Bose as declared and/or announced by the Govt. of India ;

And

In the Matter of : Inaction/non-action on the part of Govt. of India not having declared anything about the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose before having taken any initiative to bring the ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Aomori temple of Japan;

And

In the Matter of : Ashim Kumar Ganguly, son of Late Netaji Chandra Ganguly, residing at 23/A, Sib Krishna Da Lane, P.O. Kankurbachi, Calcutta- 700 054.

.... Petitioner

23

2.

Vermins

1) Govt. of India, service through secretary, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi, (2) Govt. of West Bengal, service through Secretary, Home Department, Writers' Buildings, Calcutta-1 (3) Ministry of Human Research & Development having its office at New Delhi ; (4) Ministry of Home affairs, Govt. of India, having its office at North Block, Central Secretariat, New Delhi- 4; (5) Ministry of External affairs, service through the Secretary having its office at South Block, Central Secretariate, New Delhi.

..... Respondents

Upon reading a petition of Ashim Kumar Ganguly, abovenamed (hereinafter referred to as 'the said petitioner') and his affidavit in verification thereof affirmed on the twenty ninth day of August, one thousand nine hundred ninety-seven and the exhibits annexed to the said petition and marked respectively 'A' and 'B' all filed on the twenty ninth day of August, one thousand nine hundred ninety seven. And upon hearing Mr. Subrata Mukherjee (Mr. Rajesh Ganguly appearing with him) Advocate for the said petitioner and Mr. U.P. Mukherjee, Advocate for the respondents abovenamed and upon the Advocate for the respondent Union of India abovenamed echoing the observations made by the Supreme Court of India in (Union of India & Ors.-Vs.- Bijan Ghosh & Ors.) ( 1998 W.B.L.R. (32) Page 9) stating before this court that, without there being a conclusive proof and/or otherwise determined in accordance with law the Union of India cannot accept that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

Filed in Taiwan on eighteenth day of August, one thousand nine hundred forty five or at any later date and that the ashes which are said to be kept in the Kencogi Temple of Japan are that of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and this court having no manner of doubt that a responsible Government of the people of India will do nothing which would undermine the stature and image of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose And it being difficult to accept that the Defence Minister of the Country has made a statement of such consequences as included in the said petition without verification of the facts, yet responsible newspapers like Bartaman , Ananda Bazar have so reported And the said petitioner through the said petition now alarmed that the Government of India has intended to accept the factum of the death of Subhas Chandra Bose in the shape of ashes which are allegeably stacked and kept at the Kencogi Temple , Japan And in view of the assurance that nothing of the sort is likely to be done by the Government of India.

It is ordered that before accepting the ashes which are allegedly kept at the Kencogi Temple, Japan as that of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the Government of India shall obtain full particulars and evidence and satisfy itself about the genuineness of the claim that the ashes kept at the Kencogi Temple of Japan are that of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and take the people of India in confidence And it is further ordered that this matter is disposed of accordingly.

Witness: Shree Prabha Shanker Mishra, the Chief Justice at Calcutta aforesaid the seventh day of April in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-eight.

Gouranga Chatterjya..... Advocate.

Tapan Ch. Dutt..... Advocate.

S. Chatterjee..... Advocate.

P. Ghosh

03.8.98.

For Registrar.

G.B.

17/8

17.8.98.

C.P. XXXXIV No. 1805

OF 1997

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA

~~Ordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction~~

Constitutional Writ Jurisdiction

Original Side

Ashim Kumar Ganguly

versus

Union of India & Ors.

(i) Date when the decree or order was completed

10.12.15

(ii) Date of application for copy

12.3.98

(iii) Date of notifying the requisite number of folios and stamp

12.8.98

(iv) Date of delivery of the requisite folios and stamp

12.8.98

Order/Decree of the 7th April, 1998.

day of

Filed this 10th

day of

(v) Date on which the copy is ready for delivery

14.8.98

August, 1998.

(vi) Date when delivery was taken of the copy by the applicant

14.8.98

K. Rakshit  
Superintendent,  
Order Department.

Superintendent,  
Copyists' Department,  
High Court, O. S.



SI No. 9

26

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Following three TS files belonging to MEA may be returned back to them:

1. 25/4/NGO-Vol.IV (L/W KWI)  
2. KWI of File No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.IV  
3. 25/4/NGO-Vol.V (L/W KW-I & KW-II)

P.P. Shukla

(P.P. Shukla)

JS(P)

22 September 1998

NGO

Shri TCA Rangachari, JS (EA), MEA, New Delhi

PMO ID NO G-12(3)/98-NGO dated 22-9-98

The above three files  
have been issued to JS(EA), MEA

22/9/98.

22/9

PMO (NGO)

Dy. No.

Date

152/9/98  
22-9-98

**Price Rs. 15-00 only.**

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Published by Sri D. D. Shastri, 28, Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Road, New Delhi— 110 001 and printed by him at Rama Printers at 12/2, Madan Mitra Lane, Calcutta—700 006 and The Cover printed at Arctic Printers, Ramkrishna Das Lane, Calcutta- 700009

(27)

# NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE



AIDE-MEMOIRE  
UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE

Very Best Compliments of: All India Forward Bloc  
Central Committee.

# NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

AIDE-MEMOIRE

## TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE



Ex-Chief Justice of Punjab High Court, Mr. G. D. Khosla, one man Commission of Inquiry into the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, was appointed as such by the Central Government Notification No. 25/14/80-Poll-II, dated 11th July, 1970, to—

"Inquire into all the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and the subsequent developments connected therewith and make its report to the Central Government".

**A. After exactly 4 years, Justice Khosla submitted his report to the Central Government on 30th June, 1974 and his findings inter alia are :**

On 18th August, 1945,

(xiii) "The plane took off at 2.35 p.m. but within a few seconds one of the engines blew out and the plane crashed near the fringe of the TAIHOKU air field. The body of the plane broke into two parts and caught fire".

(xiv) "Bose had sustained burn injuries of the 3rd degree and despite the efforts of the doctors to revive him, he succumbed to his injuries the same night."

(xix) "There is no reason for believing that the relations between Nehru and Bose were any thing but friendly on a personal basis".

(xx) "There is not the slightest evidence of any attempt by Nehru to suppress the truth about Bose at any stage or to make false statements about his death at TAIHOKU on August 18, 1945. His concession to a public demand for enquiry was an instance of his compliance with democratic procedures and not an admission of his disbelief in the truth of crash story".

(xxii) "There is no evidence of any attempt by the present Government to withhold evidence or place impediments in the way of this Commission".



21/

29

(xxiii) "The Japanese, however, looked upon him (Netaji) not as an equal ally, but as a person whom they could use for their own ends".

From the above, it is clear to any intelligent person that the last four findings have no relevance vis-a-vis the terms of reference i. e., to enquire into all the facts and circumstances relating to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945 and the subsequent developments connected therewith.

Then why these and many other irrelevant findings were given by Justice Khosla? Why also then in undue and unseemly haste, Justice Khosla has brought out a book called "Last Days of Netaji", where he quotes with approval the following at page 184 ?

DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI (it is sweet and fitting to die for one's country) and makes the following brazen, atrocious, untrue and uncalled for remarks about Netaji's relation with the Japanese ?

"They could not but consider him as something only a little more than a puppet" (page 30 of the Report.) "They showed little respect to him" (page 162 of the Book). "From the beginning they had wanted him as their tool, a pawn in their hands who could be made to move in compliance with their schemes and wishes" (page 168 of the Book).

The above remarks about the "Prince among the patriots" (Gandhiji said that about Netaji) have found place in his report too. It can be said unhesitatingly that all the above remarks and findings are against the tenor of the evidence produced before Justice Khosla.

Let us now discuss Mr. Khosla's findings No. (XIX) and (XX).

Not a single document was placed or oral evidence was adduced in support of the above findings. On the contrary, massive documents and evidence, of both Indian and Japanese, were placed against the above findings of Mr. G. D. Khosla.

(xix) News of Nehru's statements against Netaji, published in several national dailies from the period 1939 to 1946, will bear out the fact once for all that the relationship between Nehru and Netaji was far from friendly.

(xx) There is documentary evidence that Nehru suppressed a number of his 'confidential' files relating to "Investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of Subhas Chandra Bose". The facts were revealed when an Affidavit was sworn before Netaji Inquiry Commission (1970) for discovery of some connected documents relating to the 'circumstances concerning the departure of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Bangkok about the 16th August, 1945.....and subsequent developments connected therewith.....' Nehru did not place those files before the Netaji Inquiry Committee (1956).

Those Files were lying with the then Prime Minister's Secretariat. He did not allow the Committee to Visit Formosa (TAIHOKU) also.

It can be said with ample justification that Mr. Khosla's interpretation of Nehru's so-called 'concession to a public demand for enquiry' as indicative of Nehru's belief in the truth of the air crash story, is nowhere near the truth. In a letter to Sri Amiya Nath Bose, a nephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Nehru expressed that the findings of the Shah Nawaz Committee cannot be accepted and "something should be done to finalise this matter." He told Amiya Nath Bose (witness No. 182) that he (Nehru) had seen some secret records which "he had subsequently received". But those records were not submitted before Khosla Commission.

On September 11, 1945, Nehru himself told a Press Reporter of API at Jhansi that like many other people, he did not believe the story about the reported death of Subhas Chandra Bose. He said, I have received a number of reports which have raised in me grave doubts and I disbelieve the authenticity of the news". And those reports were suppressed and never produced before the Netaji Inquiry Committee (1956) and Netaji Inquiry Commission (1970).

Also a question can be raised as to why Nehru told late Surendra Mohon Ghosh (witness No. 154), a Veteran revolutionary leader (who knew Netaji from his boyhood) and an ex-M. P., to enquire whether the Sadhu of Saulmari was Netaji. He also further instructed Mr. Ghosh to ascertain whether the Sadhu knew the German language, as Subhas knew the German language very well (Proceedings of Netaji Inquiry Commission).

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31

The British intelligence informed their Government that Pandit Nehru "received a secret communication from Bose". This report was corroborated by Sri Shyamlal Jain (witness No. 21) while he deposed before Khosla Commission. In 1945-46 Sri Jain was working as a confidential steno of INA Defence Committee. He said "On or about November-December, 1945 Jawaharlal Nehru gave him four papers from his writing pad to make four copies of a letter, which he would dictate to me on typewriters, which I also complied. The contents of the letter as far as I could remember were as follows :

"Dear Mr. Atlee,

I understand from a reliable source that Subhas Chandra Bose, your war Criminal has been allowed to enter Russian territory by Stalin. This is a clear treachery and betrayal of faith by Russians. As Russia has been an Ally of the British-Americans, it should not have been done.

Please take note of it and do what you consider proper and fit.

Yours sincerely,

Jawaharlal Nehru"

The above mentioned evidence was never denied, nor controverted and or successfully challenged at any time either before the Commission (1970) or in public.

Does it not sufficiently prove that Nehru's relations with Netaji was far from friendly ?

**B. NETAJI'S PLAN FOR ENTERING RUSSIA VIA MANCHURIA :**

**Findings by G. D. Khosla One-man Commission of Netaji Inquiry (1970) :**

i) "Bose was informed on August 12, 1945, that the War was about to conclude and the Japanese had decided to surrender to the Allied Forces. He was at that time at Saramban. The Message was brought to him there by Negishi (Witness No. 50)".

ii) "Bose at once left for Singapore where he discussed his future plans with his colleagues and the Ministers of his Cabinet, almost day and night. Final

decision was taken on 14th when Sakai arrived and conferred with Bose. It was decided that Bose himself should leave Singapore and try to escape to Russia where he hoped to find asylum."

iii) "On the morning of 16-8-1945, Bose left Singapore, accompanied by Col. Habibur Rahman, S. A. Iyer (Witness No. 29), a Japanese Liaison Officer Negishi (Witness No. 50), Col. Pritam Singh (Witness No. 155) and others. The party arrived at Bangkok at 3-30 p.m. and spent the night there".

iv) "At about 8 a.m. on August 17, 1945, Bose and party left by two planes for Saigon. Bose's party included Col. Habibur Rahman, Deb Nath Das (Witness No. 3), Isoda (Witness No. 68), S. A. Iyer (Witness No. 29), Hachiya (Witness No. 51), Gulzara Singh (Witness No. 153), Col. Pritam Singh (Witness No. 155), Abid Hussain (Witness No. 157) and others. The party arrived at Saigon at 11 a.m."

v) Mr. G. D. Khosla, retired Chief Justice of Punjab High Court, refused to consider the evidence of Habibur Rahman, before British Intelligence (29-9-45) and Netaji Inquiry Committee (1956) on 6-4-56, as admissible according to Evidence Act. In course of argument, he declared that Habibur Rahman's evidence was non-est. In spite of the fact, Mr. Khosla religiously recorded various events of the narrated story not relying in any way on the evidence of the Japanese witnesses of 'convincing truth', but wholly relying on Habibur Rahman's evidence.

**Sri Suresh Chandra Bose, a non-official member of the Netaji Inquiry Committee (1956), observed :**

"As early as 1944, Netaji foresaw that the Japanese nation would have to surrender and that it was only a question of time. As the main object of his life was to continue his struggle for the liberation of India and as he could not do the same in those countries in the East, as they would come under the occupation of the victorious British and American forces and as for the same purpose and for the same reason, he could not continue his work also in Japan, he considered Russia to be a convenient and suitable country for his next future



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activities. He accordingly, started making contacts with the Russian Ambassador in Japan".

**Sri Shah Nawaz Khan and Sri S. N. Maitra, Chairman & Official Member of Netaji Inquiry Committee (1956) observed :**

"Netaji felt that for him it would be good policy to take shelter in Russia, from where he could come out in time to continue his war of liberation against the British.....He asked Mr. Sahay to go to Tokyo and try to establish contact with the Soviet Ambassador there, Mr. Jacob Malik.....An Official reference was made to the Government of Japan by Netaji to contact the Russian authorities on his behalf." Japanese Government's reply which was received sometime in June, 1945. Mr. Debnath Das has stated that about this time several alternative plans were considered. The first was to go to India and prepare for an armed revolution inside the country : Alternative, to go to Yenan (Communist China) : And thirdly, to try and contact the Russians through the Japanese. The third alternative seemed to have found favour with Netaji..... Manchuria, which was next door, and held by the Japanese forces, was increasingly considered as the best place to move to".

**C. Statement of Japanese Witnesses (about the Plan of Netaji to go to Manchuria) before Shah Nawaz Committee and Khosla Commission :**

i) Gen. Isoda (Chief of Hikari Kikan) said that it was Hikari Kikan's plan to allow Bose to escape and to publish a false story regarding his death (Proceedings of Netaji Inquiry Commission-Page 3016). Mr. T. Hachiya (the Japanese Minister to the Azad Hind Government), Mr. T. Negishi (Japanese interpreter attached to Netaji), corroborated that the plan of Netaji was to go to Russia via Manchuria.

ii) General Isoda has stated that the plane arranged for Netaji was a brand new bomber and that its take-off from Saigon aerodrome was quite normal and which has also been confirmed by Messrs. T. Hachiya, T. Negishi, Shri S. A. Iyer and others who were present there.

iii) Gen. Isoda told Khosla Commission : "It was finally decided in that meeting (at Bangkok) that Netaji will go to Russia via Manchuria and the Japanese Government will give him monetary and other help." He further said, "He knew it definitely that Netaji was going to Russia" and added, "He was going to Russia via Saigon.....There was no plan to stay at Saigon."

iv) All the Japanese and I. N. A. witnesses told Khosla Commission that Netaji had a secret meeting with Gen. Isoda and Mr. Hachiya at Bangkok and later he asked Habibur Rahman to join it. Habibur Rahman totally suppressed this fact from the British Intelligence team.

Hachiya (Japanese Ambassador to Azad Hind Government) told Mr. Khosla, "I met Netaji at Bangkok and told him that I have got a message from the Government of Japan. They said they are very grateful to you (Bose) and they have asked me to know from you, whether the Government of Japan could be of any help to you". During cross-examination Hachiya said that he "informed Netaji that the Government of Japan was willing to make arrangements for shifting him to some safe area".

v) Iyer wrote in his book UNTO HIM A WITNESS at Page-68, "General Isoda, Mr. Hachiya and a Senior Staff Officer of Field Marshal Terauchi stepped out of the car, walked briskly into the house where Netaji shook hands with them and immediately ushered them into one of the rooms. Habibur Rahman was also asked to join the fateful conference (17-8-1945). I do not know exactly what transpired at the conference, because I was not present".

At page-69, he further wrote, "But where was Netaji going ? We did not ask him and he did not tell us. But we knew and he knew that we knew. The plane was bound for Manchuria".

#### D. FINDING OF BRITISH INTELLIGENCE :

a) "Bose considered that the Russian attitude was always in favour of India and her independence, and that at any time she might interfere on behalf of P.G.I. (249/INA G.H.Q. Case on Bose and Russia).

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b) "S. C. Bose was preparing to leave for Moscow in order to place all information about the Indian Freedom Movement before the leaders of the U.S.S.R. It was also said that Col. S. A. Malik would follow S. C. Bose to Moscow, B 766 heard the news from Lt. Subrammaniam (then Adjutant of the YE-U Rest Camp). In December, 1944, Lt. Sadhu Singh of H.Q.I. Div. I.N.A, who was acting as Q.M. of the YE-U Rest Camp, informed B 766 that S. C. Bose had left for Moscow and was soon expected back in TOKYO". (Secret File No. 24 9-INA-II (H) G.H. Q. case on Subhas Chandra Bose).

c) "...There was no need for the Japanese to ask the Russians for Bose's entry because Bose wanted to go to Manchuria from where he thought he would be able to get in touch with the Russian Forces", (Head Quarter Main File-273 I.N.A.-10 Misc.)

d) "On 16th August S. C. Bose came to Bangkok by a plane specially made for him by the Japanese. It is also suspicious that Bose had to change plane at Saigon and go on in another plane with one of his staff Officers. It would appear more likely that a person of Bose's importance would still be allowed to travel in his own special aircraft". (H.Q. Main File 273 I.N.A. 10 Misc.)

e) "Bose had been trying to persuade the Japanese to allow him to go to Manchuria since October, 1944, when they told him that they had no chance of invading India through Burma and that therefore, he was prepared to try another road to Delhi via Moscow. Reference should be made to HIKARI'S telegram at the time Bose arrived in Saigon. Isoda was also there and this fact may be significant that there was a plan on the part of HIKARI KIKAN to allow Bose to escape and to publish a false story regarding his death. This would have been the ideal place for ISODA (Chief of Hikari Kikan) to put into operation any such plan.....these are part of a colossal and well executed deception manoeuvre. This file of Telegrams along with numerous other documents must have been purposely left for the British to find them. Although at this stage one cannot rule out the possibility of Bose being still alive, this file of telegrams contains four and

most important one, which gives an idea of the plan to allow Bose to escape and to publish a false story regarding his death". (H.Q. Main File 10 MISC INA 273 subjects Subhas Chandra Bose, Page-10).

TOP SECRET 4 SIGNALS OF HIKARI KIKAN REGARDING MOVEMENTS OF  
NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

SEATIC Section  
Intelligence Assault Unit.  
7th Ind Div SLF SIAM

24th September, 1945.

Subject : Translation of messages for death of Bose found in a file of reports belonging to the HIKARI KIKAN.

"TOP SECRET"

1. HIKARI KIKAN SIGNAL RE : "T" (TN : Bose)

August 18

To : OC HIKARI KIKAN.

FROM : Chief of Staff, Southern Army,  
Southern Army Signal 303.

Today at 1700 hrs (17 Aug) 'T' with Lt. Gen Shidei  
and others, left here for TOKYO VIA FORMOSA and DAIREN.

Inform Indian Community of this

Depending on circumstances, I expect to return in two or three days.  
(from OC KIKAN)

2. TO : OC KIKAN

FROM : Chief of Staff Southern Army.

Southern Army Staff II Signal 66 20th Aug. "TOP SECRET"

"T" while on the way to the capital, as a result of an accident to this Aircraft at TAIHOKU at 1400 hrs on the 18th was seriously injured and died at midnight on the same date. His body has been flown to TOKYO by the Formosan Army



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I have thanked the Formosan Army, for their kindness. Further I have asked that proof of his death in the plane accident remains, photographs etc.-be collected.

As for the centre, I am getting Staff Officer TADA, who leaves SAIGON on the 20th to take up an appointment, to provide them with a detailed report. I wish secrecy to be maintained in handling the matter.

3. HIKARI KIKAN SIGNAL RE : 'T'

24 Aug. 1945

TO : OC MALAY Branch (TN : not clear)

OC SAIGON EMBARKATION POINT

Chief of Staff, Southern Army.

FROM : OC HIKARI KIKAN

Re : Death of 'T' please ensure that Indian communities are informed of the DOMEI despatch reporting 'T', death.

Document 128

4. HIKARI Message 1020

27 Aug. 1945

TO : CHIEF OF Staff, Southern Army

FROM : OC HIKARI KIKAN

Request urgently the report on the later progress of Col. 'HABIB RAHMAN'.

N.B. These messages were found in the ordinary file in their proper place and numbered and docketed in the usual manner. There was nothing suspicious about them and they did not appear to be interpolations.

Signals Nos. 4, 5, and 6

SEATIC DOCUMENT 128

DM  
pp S. Hyder  
Capt.  
OC Section

f) "It was noteworthy that No. 1 message was sent by Lt. Gen. ISODA himself who was in Saigon at the time. The message was not sent until 18 August.....in view of the fact that the Signal was given an 'URGENT' priority, it seems obvious that in actual fact the Signal Originated on 18 August, 1945" [Secret No. 63/2/10 G.S I. (b) HQ. SACSEA COMMISSION No. 1, Saigon, 18th October, 1945]

g) ".....Possible that ISODA had come here (Saigon) to workout and co-ordinate his 'deception plan' with Lt. Gen. NIMATA and he stayed on until this plan had been executed under his personal supervision". [Secret No. 63/2/10 G.S. (b) H.Q. SACSEA COMMISSION, 18th October, 1945] Lt. Gen. ISODA (Chief of Hikari Kikan). "The purpose of his (Netaji's) flight was to go to Soviet Union. He was going to Russia via Saigon." [Proceedings of Netaji Inquiry Commission 1970].

h) Col. Tada, one of the Staff Officers of the F.M. Terauchi, (Supreme Commander, Japanese South East Asia Command) told, "after the end of the war when Japan surrendered, Terauchi took all responsibilities to help Netaji and asked him to go to Kaka Bose (His Excellency Bose) and tell him to reach Russian territory all help will be given to him. It was arranged that Chandra Bose will fly in the plane in which Shidei was going, General Shidei will look after Chandra Bose upto Dairen, and thereafter, he could fall back on his own resources to contact Russians. Japanese would announce to the world that Bose had 'disappeared' from Dairen. That would absolve them of all responsibilities in the eyes of the Allies". (Proceedings of Netaji Inquiry Commission 1970).

i) Mr. Finney, the Director of Intelligence Bureau of the British Government attached to Mac Arthur's Head Quarters at Tokyo, in an urgent message from Bangkok informed his higher authority in India: "on November 12, 1945, he examined a man named K. Watanabe, who was working as an interpreter in Hikari Kikan. Watanabe told him that on August 16 or 17, 1945 he was asked to work as interpreter in a meeting held at the residence of Isoda, between Isoda

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and Subhas Chandra Bose, who was accompanied by Major Bhonsle and Lt. Col. Habibur Rahman. The meeting ended before Watanabe reached there. Isoda talked without any interpreter. They discussed how Bose could be sent to his destination. That Bose's was going to Russia was more or less known, perhaps it was Manchuria."

j) Mr. Finney, in that message, informed his higher authority, "It was an understood thing in the Embassy and in Hikari Kikan that he (Bose) was going to hand over himself to the Russians in Russia". (Khosla Commission-Exhibit No. Com. 28/V)

k) After receiving this message, Intelligence team resume fresh interrogation of General Bhonsle. The team recorded: "What we feared, it happened exactly so. But he (Bhonsle) admitted that he himself and Habibur Rahman, Lt. Gen. Isoda and Col. Kagawa had a meeting with Bose. He also admitted that they discussed how Bose could be sent to his destination. Bhonsle further admitted that Bose had the intention to go to Russia.....But it appeared that he (Bhonsle) was not willing to say much about the matter. Avoiding related questions, he only said, If anybody of his trusted men knew anything about the real plan of Netaji then none will say it now."

This Report was made by Lt. Col. Mckwright (Exhibit No. Com./28/S.

l) On instruction from Lt. Col. Mckwright Habibur Rahman was further interrogated. The report produced before Khosla Commission says: "Habibur Rahman refused to say anything more than he told earlier. He denied about secret meeting at Bangkok and said that the main topic discussed in that meeting was the issue of surrender of I.N.A. He said only this that in course of discussion there, one Japanese Officer wanted to know what was the intention of Bose. They once told him about shifting Bose to Russia,.....Bose told the Japanese that he had taken decision to surrender at Singapore along with I.N.A.....It appears that Habibur Rahman is not willing to come out with the truth." (Secrat No. 1400/23/S/E/Red Fort/New Delhi/25 March 1946 : Exhibit No. Com. 28/R.)

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**E. This extraordinary man (Netaji) "vanished" many times before 18th August, 1945 and if he did not chose to reveal his whereabouts even his closest relations and associates would not and could not know where he was.**

i) At the age of 18, according to late Sri Bhasin, the Commission's Counsel, he was swept by a spiritual urge within which made him leave his house surreptitiously, **whithout anyone getting a wind of it**, in search of a Guru.

ii) In 1941, during the height of 2nd World War, while being in house internment, his extra-ordinary feat of escape from Elgin Road, Calcutta to Kabul, Russia and Germany, **without anyone being taken into confidence about the total plan** and without having the assistance of an organised group of people like the I.N.A.

iii) In 1943, the historical 90 days' submarine voyage from Kiel to Singapore, with a change of Sub-Marine at Madagascar in the turbulent seas without the Allies knowing anything about it. Further, not a single member of the German crew of the submarine knew who he was, though he used to give discourse on The Gita to them everyday, during this long voyage.

iv) His arrival at Singapore was kept such a close secret that before his presence was announced in the public meeting at the Parade Ground, Singapore very few people knew that their would be Supreme Commander was already there.

**F. Netaji foresaw much before August, 1945 that Axis powers were going to be defeated in the 2nd World War.**

a) As early as 1942 Netaji knew that Allies would be winning. In the last autumn of 1942, he told German Admiral Canaris, "You know as well as I do that Germany cannot win this war. But this time victorious Britain will loose India". According to late Bhasin : "Such was his assessment of the situation at home and abroad, and how correct".

b) Sri Shah Nawaz Khan, in his evidence, confided that as early as 1944 Netaji clearly vjsualised that Axis powers were losing the war. He said on oath



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that Netaji said in October-November, 1944 in a Cabinet meeting "Axis powers would lose and the Anglo-Americans would win".

c) Sri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, who knew Sri Subhas Chandra Bose (Netaji) intimately, in his evidence, deposed that Netaji was of very secretive nature.

**G. Realising as early as 1942 or as late as 1944 what would be the outcome of war, what this 'PAST MASTER' of planning would do ?**

**There is massive evidence to show that he did plan to shift his area of operation to Soviet Russia, Indo China or China :**

Though none seemed to know the inner core of the plan many knew barely that there were plans for shifting the area of liberation movement. While Sri Shah Nawaz Khan said that even as early as 1944, Netaji was trying to contact Russians and Ho Chi Minh so that war of liberation continued from there, Sri S. A. Iyer, Minister of Publicity and Propaganda, Azad Hind Govt. and Sri E. Bhaskaran, Netaji's confidential secretary, deposed that "It was decided that base for liberation struggle should be shifted to Russia". Sri Deb Nath Das, Syed Samsul Zaman, General Secretary I.I.L. Northern Shan State, Sri V. C. Sharma, Sri S. C. Sen Gupta, Sri M. S. Doshi, Col. Thakur Singh, Mr. Tara Kono, Lt. Gen. Isoda, head of the Hikari Kikan, Lt. Col. TakaKura, Maj. Gen. S. C. Allagappan, Dr. S. Vasava Menon, Dr. B. Rama Chandra Rao, Sri S. S. Virik, Asstt. Manager of Air-India, Sri Gandhi Nathan, Sri S. Ishwar Singh, Col. Pritam Singh, Dr. R. N. Kasliwal, Sri A. M. Sahay and many others deposed that there were plans to shift the area of operation to Russia, China, Indo-China and even to India. According to Sri A. M. Sahay, near the end of 1944, he left Rangoon for Shanghai and set up a Territorial Committee with headquarters at Shanghai and branches in Canton, Tintoi and other towns in Manchuria. The witness established an office at Hanoi with a view to contacting the Chinese and Russian Communists and met Ho Chi Minh in this connection. [Proceedings of Netaji Inquiry Committee (1956) and Netaji Inquiry Commission (1970)].

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Long before the war ended, realising the ultimate defeat of the Axis powers, this master planner planned to shift his area of operation and it was not a last minute haphazard plan as Justice Khosla wants us to believe. Further than that, it has come on evidence that the 'plane crash story was a part of a strategy' so that victorious Anglo-Americans could not be on his heels.

(iii) Sri U. C. Sharma, Sri S. C. Sen Gupta of secret service, Dr. B. Rama Chandra Rao and Sri Deb Nath Das deposed that plane crash story was only "a cover". Even Sri Amiya Nath Bose, during his visit to Japan and discussions with Japanese officials, learnt that there was a plan of landing Netaji at Port Dairen and announcing to the world that Netaji died in a plane crash. Sri E. Bhaskaran, confidential secretary to Netaji, deposed that Netaji dictated a long letter to John Thlvy, on 17th August, 1945, early morning in the following terms "I am writing all this to you as I am on the eve of taking a long journey by Air and who knows an accident may not overtake me".

**H. It was proved abundantly that not only that there was a plan to shift the area of operation, but that the plane crash story was an integral part of such strategy :**

Justice Khosla said on one occasion : "If there was a plan like this, it is a very strong argument against the findings of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee". He further said, "If the existence of such a plan is established it will go a long way to prove that Netaji did not die in a crash". (Vol. II, Pages 499 and 500 dated 4-11-70)

**I. There was plethora of evidence from high and low, pointing to a very peculiar trait of Netaji's character. that is. he was of very secretive nature and therefore the execution part of the plan of escape was known to very few. Amongst the Indians none except perhaps Col. Habibur Rahaman was taken into confidence.**

Shah Nawaz Khan's evidence is : "It was entirely for Netaji to discuss what he wanted".

Sri. S. A. Iyer, Propaganda and Publicity Minister of the Azad Hind Government does not hesitate to confide that he did not know the members of

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the Secret Service of I.N.A. He further said : "Netaji was very reticent about the discussion of things that did not concern the particular person and did not take me into confidence as to what he discussed with the Japanese Government". He further says : **"Inner plan was not known to most of the Cabinet Ministers"**.

Sri S. T. Mehtani's evidence is very revealing. He says : "Netaji was a very secretive person and he never discussed his plans even with his Cabinet colleagues. All the time he was under mystery. Even till the last moment, nobody would know where he was going".

This has been the evidence of Sri S. C. Sen Gupta, Mr. Negishi, a Japanese businessman, Col. Gulzara Singh, Sri Deb Nath Das, and many others.

Sardar Niranjana Singh Talib, ex. M. P., a close associate of Netaji and ex. President of Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee said unhesitatingly that Netaji was determined not to disclose his top secrets even to his Colleagues. Lt. Col. Taka Kura, who was Staff Officer at the Imperial Gen. H. Q., Tokyo, is forced to admit that "Perhaps nobody knew by what plane he was coming".

**J. But why was all this secrecy ? Answer is not far to seek**

i) Netaji was by nature a secretive person and never divulged more than necessary minimum information to even a confidant.

ii) He became more secretive because Axis powers were losing and he had to shift his liberation movement to some other soil without Allies getting any wind of it. There was another reason.

iii) The secrecy was all the more necessary when it was on record that information about every movement of I.N.A., at this crucial stage, was passed on to the Allies by some very high I.N.A. personnel.

iv) Col. Thakur Singh and Sri A. M. Sahay admitted that there were few cases of defection. Sri S. C. Sengupta, the intelligence officer, who was very close to Netaji, said on oath that it was within Netaji's knowledge that some traitors were dropped in the war front to liquidate Netaji and Netaji told him : "one of the high ranking officers had deserted us".

v) This secrecy was necessary as an abundant caution.

**K. This is why none, except, perhaps, with the honourable exception of Col. Habibur Rahman amongst the Indians, was taken into confidence about the ultimate plan of Netaji. Why Habibur Rahman? Was it an accidental choice?**

i) He was chosen by Netaji and Netaji alone because of his being (a) Deputy Chief of Staff, whose words about crash etc. could not have been doubted by the pursuing Anglo-American forces; because of his (b) unquestionable loyalty to Netaji and as such (c) his capacity to keep a secret as a secret.

ii) While Sri A. M. Sahay says that Col. Habibur Rahman had such deep sense of loyalty for Netaji that he would not hesitate to tell lies for the safety of Netaji.

iii) Legendary Maj. Abid Hassan, who perhaps was the only Indian with Netaji in his historic Submarine voyage from Germany to Singapore says: "For finding out whether that accident took place or not, that one person could not be Habibur Rahman.

iv) Col. Pritam Singh, deposed that Rahman was under an oath of secrecy to Netaji and he would never give any information about him; Col. Thakur Singh and Sri K. V. Narain say that Col. Habibur Rahman's devotion to Netaji was such that he would never tell the truth about Netaji's whereabouts.

v) What does Shah Nawaz Khan say about Habib in Vol. I at pages 63 to 74 of his evidence? "He (Habibur Rahman) was so devoted to Netaji that he would not have hesitated one minute even to sacrifice his life at that time. He was deeply devoted to Netaji and any order or instruction given to him he would faithfully carry out, even at the cost of his life. He is of that type".

vi) "Col. Mahboob Ahmod who was Chief of Protocol and Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and became our Ambassador for quite a number of years deposed in Vol. V at page 1917 to the following effects "He (Habibur Rahman) is one of those officers who would do anything for Netaji". At page 1922 there is an interesting piece of evidence.



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Sri P. K. Bose ; "If a secret was entrusted to Col. Habibur Rahman in your estimation, his character is such that he will keep it a secret all his life, unless countermanded by Netaji himself". Col. Ahmed : "That is my assessment of Habibur Rahman".

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vii) Sri S. A. Iyer confirms at page 4072 of his evidence that on his last known journey Netaji took Habibur Rahman with him **without consulting anyone**.

viii) After interrogation of Col. Habibur Rahman, the Intelligence Bureau, New Delhi, on May 19, 1946 (No. C-5 Page 5), recorded, "Habibur Rahman's report is unsatisfactory. The multitude of discrepancies in accounts of actual air crash as given first to CIC in Tokyo and later to CSDIC, is being taken up.....".

ix) Sri S. C. Sen Gupta of secret service of I.N.A. confides that in that fateful secret meeting of 17th August, 1945 (even today none, except the participants, knows what transpired in that meeting) only Habibur Rahman amongst the Indians and some top Japanese Officers conferred with Netaji.

Can any one now fail to realise why Col. Habibur Rahman was the lone Indian companion of Netaji "in his journey to the unknown". ?

**L. The plane crash story was a put up story and did not stand scrutiny.**

Massive evidence was analysed to bring home the truth that from this evidence no sensible person far less a judicial person could come to the conclusion that there was a plane crash or that Netaji died in such a plane crash.

i) The alleged occupants of the plane gave contradictory versions about the seating arrangements. Why ? It is admitted fact that neither there was any seat nor seatbelt. If on the top of that, plane actually crashed the way it is said to have nose dived then all the passengers falling in a heap with luggage falling over them and fire breaking out, there could not be a single survivor in such a plane crash. But miracle of miracles ; 7 or 8 persons survived with very minor injuries so that they could give evidence in details about the plane crash and Netaji's alleged death before the Inquiry Committee and the Commission.

ii) None of these so-called surviving co-passengers saw Netaji actually dying and none of them knew Netaji before 17th August, 1945. About the air-crash and its impact their depositions are at such variance from one another that their evidentiary value is non est. Is it conceivable that in his journey from Taihoku the head of the Azad Hind Government will not be accompanied by a single Japanese officer, known to him who would be able, at least, to identify him? Did not the protocol demand that the head of a State, while travelling, is accompanied?

iii) It is on record that even on 17th August, 1945 Netaji was closetted with Lt. Gen. Isoda, the head of the Hikari Kikan, Col. Tada a Staff Officer attached to Field Marshal Count Terauchi's Headquarters and Mr. Hachiya, the Japanese Government representative to Netaji's Azad Hind Government.

iv) Apart from the evidence of Dr. Yoshimi and Dr. Tsuruta (of which the less said the better) all evidence given on Netaji's alleged death was hearsay evidence and non acceptable in a Court of Law. Lt. Gen. Fujiwara, Mr. Tadashi Ando, Lt. Col. Tadao Sakai, Mr. Negishi, Mr. Hachiya, Lt. Col. Takamiya, Col. Nonogaki, Mr. Watanabe, Maj. Takahashi, Lt. Gen. Isoda, Lt. Col. Shibuya—all **said without exception that they had no personal knowledge about the alleged death of Netaji.**

v) Sri S. A. Iyer, the publicity and propaganda Minister of Azad Hind Government, was told by the Japanese on the 20/21 August, (i.e. after three days of alleged crash) that he would be taken to the place of plane crash and shown Netaji's body. But in spite of his repeated requests and repeated assurances by the Japanese he was never taken there. What does it prove? It is simple to prove that as there was no plane crash, the Japanese naturally were unable to take him to the site of the non existant plane crash. Curiously enough, the same Iyer without further verification, drafted the news of plane crash and Netaji's death which was published by the Domei News Agency.

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v) Sri Iyer told the Japanese Military Officer : ".....not a single Indian in East Asia or in India would be prepared to believe what the Japanese might say about Netaji's Plane-Crash unless they produced convincing proof of the accident." (Unto Him A Witness-Pages-99 & 100)

Sri Ayer confessed : "Then they wanted me to draft the announcement. I dictated a draft and asked them to show me the final draft before announcing it. "Frankly speaking, I was not inclined to believe their story at that moment.....".

And on that news item mainly, which was hearsay on hearsay, Mr. Khosla was satisfied about the plane crash and Netaji's death, though not a single piece of documentary evidence i.e. the passenger list, flight Chart, weather report etc. has been produced to prove that even a single plane flew in the skies of Taihoku (Formosa) on the 18th of August, 1945. As even the plane flight has not been proved, it logically follows that the so called plane crash and Netaji's death have not also been proved.

vi) Another extraordinary feature of the evidence is that the identity of the so called copassengers and the so called doctors was not checked, following the ordinary legal procedures. Therefore, if the oral evidence is non est and documentary evidence is scarce, what remains of the evidence of plane crash and death ? Nothing excepting Iyer's drafting the news which was hearsay on hearsay and which was published by Domei News Agency as being authentic.

vi) A comparative CHART of the news of the alleged plane-crash and Netaji's alleged death circulated by different Agencies is given below :

0

THE ALLEGED DFATH NEWS OF NETAJI CIRCULATED BY DIFFERENT NEWS AGENCIES

TO O C KIKAN

FROM : Chief of Staff Southern Army  
Southern Army Staff II  
SIGNAL 66, 20th Aug. '45

Announcement by  
DOMEI NEWS AGENCY on  
23rd August, 1945

Statement issued by  
Information Service of India-Tokyo  
Published on August 24, 1945 in  
ASAHI HSIMBUM

"TOP SECRET"

a) "T" while on his way to the Capital (TOKYO), as a result of an accident to this Aircraft at TAIHOKU at 14.00 hrs. on the 18th was seriously injured and died at MIDNIGHT on the same day.

b) His body has been flown to Tokyo by the Formosan Army.

c) NO MENTION

SEATIC SECTION  
Intelligence Assault Unit  
7th Ind Div ALF SIAM  
24th September, 1945

Mr. Bose.....left Singapore on August 16 by Air for Tokyo for talks with the Japanese Government. He was seriously injured when his plane crashed at TAIHOKU air field.

He was given treatment in Hospital in JAPAN where he died at midnight.

Lt. General TSUNAMASA SHIDEI was instantaneously killed, and Col. Habib-Ur-Rahman.....and four other Japanese officers were injured in the crash.

Mr. Chandra Bose.....met an air accident in the outskirt of Taipeh airport at 14.00 hrs. on August 18 and sustained severe injuries.

He was treated at the Hospital on the spot but passed away at midnight on August 18,

Col. Habibur Rahman, Mr. Bose's aide who had been accompanying him, sustained a severe injury and Lt. Genl. Shidei killed instantly. Four Officers suffered serious or otherwise minor injuries.



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vii) Two Intelligence teams were sent to South Asia in September, 1945, under the command of two British Officers, with a warrant of arrest against Netaji. Sri Sashadhar Majumder of I. B. West Bengal, deposed that two Intelligence teams were sent to Bangkok in September, 1945 to investigate about Netaji's alleged death. Sri Himangsu Roy, a member of one of those teams, said at page 434 of the Netaji Inquiry Commission (1970) : "We were sent to arrest Netaji".

Sri Kalipada Dey, another member of the team, said in his evidence that they, after investigation, had no direct evidence about Netaji's death.

**M. The Japanese were and are very photo minded :**

a) It is in evidence that Netaji could not escape the onslaught of a Camera even while going in or coming out of the bathroom. But there is not a single photo produced of dead Netaji. If Netaji actually died then there was every reason for the Japanese to take innumerable photos of the dead body and show these to the world, as a convincing piece of evidence of his death.

b) As no harm could have been done to a dead body, the Japanese in the event of his death on 18th August, 1945 i.e. 3 days after the Japanese surrender, would have kept his body and shown the same to the Allies, which might give an opportunity to the vanquished Japanese to negotiate for better terms with the victorious Allies.

c) If Netaji actually died why should they i.e. the Japanese keep this in such mystery-when this mystery neither served their cause nor did it serve Netaji's cause (if he was dead) ?

d) Though the so-called co-passengers admittedly never knew Netaji before the date of the so called plane journey, it is interesting that none of the confidants of the crucial closed door 17th August meeting was an eye witness to the alleged plane crash.

e) As it was already urged that Netaji was shifting his area of operation according to his plan, it was pointed out that pilot, co-pilot, engineer, navigator and Gen. Shidei, who were shown to be dead alongwith Netaji in the alleged plane crash, were, and not the alleged survivors, the only passenger who could help Netaji to fly away to his destination and that is why they were shown to be dead, so that the pursuing allies could be sent on a wrong trail.

N. **So called Doctors' evidence was at such variance from one another and also from their own statement given before Anglo-American Intelligence, Shah Nawaz Khan Committee and Khosla Commission that none, in his senses, could believe their testimony.**

A CHART of comparative statements of Dr. T. Yoshimi witness No. 48 and witness No. 72 of Shah Nawaz Committee and Khosla Commission respectively before different agencies, is given below :

## CONTRADICTORY STATEMENT OF DR. T. YOUSHIMI

### STATEMENT ON 19.10.46 BEFORE (THE 'ALLIED INTELLIGENCE')

1. On 18th August (1945) at 5 P.M., Bose with 6 or 7 persons were brought to the Hospital  
(No mention about a Telephone message of crash)
2. He personally cleaned Bose's injuries with oil and dressed them.
3. Bose was suffering from extensive burns over the whole body so much so that very little was left of his identification marks (Still this Japanese identified Netaji after 11 years of the crash when shown Netaji's photo (fully dressed) by the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee).

### DEPOSITION FROM 21.5.56 TO 23.5.59 (BEFORE SHAH NAWAZ COMMITTEE)

On 18th at about 2 P.M. received Telephone message from Airport intimating plane crash. 20 minutes thereafter injured persons brought including Bose. 13 or 14 persons were brought.

At about 2-30 p.m. a 'Shidosha' carrying Mr. Bose alone, arrived at the hospital followed by a car occupied only by a staff officer of the Military H. Qr. in Formosa and then by lorry carrying 12 or 13 injured persons. Mr. Bose who was lying absolutely naked on a bed in the Shidosha was brought in to the Hospital on a Stretcher.

DR. TSURUTA (not he) applied White ointment against burns and bandaged.

He was severely burnt. It took a greyish colour like ash. Even his heart had burnt. He had 3rd degree burns. His face and eyes were swollen. He was in high fever; his temperature was 39° Centigrade. His pulse rate was 120 per minute. His heart condition was also weak.

[Can any one remember all these details (even pulse rate) about a patient after 11 years and of whom no record was kept. ? ]

### DEPOSITION ON 24.4.71 (BEFORE G. D. KHOSLA)

Little before noon received Telephone call from the Airport. 7 persons, including 2 Indians, arrived at the Hospital at about 12-30 P.M.

He treated his burns all over his body. He was bandaged all over his body after applying plaster.

Chandra Bose suffered general burns all over the body. His heart was not burnt. That is a mistake.

(He signed the earlier statement verifying the same). His burn was that of 3rd degree.

(Can anyone remain conscious after having 3rd degree burns ?)

His features still remained when he was brought to the Hospital, there were no bruises, no swelling, only the colour of the skin changed. Later on his face swelled. He admits that his earlier statement about swelling was incorrect.

When he examined Mr. Bose in dressing room and not in the operation theatre, he found that Mr. Bose's burnt were of severest, 3rd degree type but there was no injury on any part of his body, from which blood came out.

He (Dr. Yoshimi) gave him one after the other, for his heart, four injections of Vitacamphor, two injections of Digitamine and three injections of Ringer's solution.

He also let out about 200 c.c. of blood and transfused about 400 c.c. of blood, which he obtained from a Japanese soldier there. He (Netaji) was then given Sulphonamide injection to prevent infection.

He then went to attend the other injured persons, leaving Dr. TSURUTA in charge of Mr. Bose, during whose treatment and even later, the following persons were present. Viz., Mr. Nakamura, the Chief Nurse and another Nurse (both gapanese) and Col. Rahman.



STATEMENT ON 19.10.46 BEFORE  
(THE 'ALLIED INTELLIGENCE')

4. After 9 P.M. he was sinking into unconsciousness—he was in coma never regained consciousness and died at 11 P. M.
5. After 10 day's (i. e. on 28th) treatment, Habibur Rahman went to HOKUTO Army Hospital taking Netaji's ashes with him.
6. (Nothing remembered)

DEPOSITION FROM 21.5.56 TO 23.5.56  
(BEFORE SHAH NAWAZ COMMITTEE)

"It was shortly after 8 P.M. that Mr. Bose breathed his last".

Tried to give artificial respiration.  
(Never mentioned earlier)

At the time of his (Netaji's) death he, Dr. Tsuruta, Mr. Nakamura, two Japanese Nurses, Col Rahman, one Military Policeman and Col Nonogaki were present.

Habib left Hospital on the 30th August with Netaji's body and never came back. He does not know where he went. He does not remember how that Habib took the ashes.

In case of severe burns of 3rd degree, the blood gets thicker and there is high pressure of the heart. Blood needs to be let out. So, the Doctor himself let out approximately 200 c.c. of blood and transfused 400 c.c. of blood into him.

He instructed Dr. Tsuruta to give him (Netaji) Vita-Camphore in action every half an hour...

Mr. Bose's body was then removed to a corner of the same room and a screen was put in front of the body.

DEPOSITION ON 24.4.71  
(BEFORE G. D. KHOSLA)

He was conscious for 7/8 hours, Mr. Bose survived in the Hospital for 12 hours and died in his presence. His statement before Shah Nawaz Khan Committee that Netaji died shortly after 8 P.M., he thinks to be incorrect.

Habib left with Netaji's body the day after his death. He never came back. The dead body was removed on the 19th morning (when confronted with his earlier statement he said that he was not sure which of his own statements was correct).

The Doctor gave blood transfusion. No Blood transfusion was given by a Surgeon from Army H.Q. whose name he did not remember. He did not let out blood from Bose's body. Even in 3rd degree burns blood transfusion possible without letting out blood. Blood transfusion was not given by him. He admits that his statement before Shah Nawaz Khan Committee was wrong. He was not present when blood transfusion was given.

i) According to DR. TSURUTA (Witness No. 39 of Netaji Inquiry Committee 1956) he was present from the time Netaji was brought in, till the time he died (?). He further said, on 18-8-1945 at about 3 P.M., about a dozen injured persons, including Mr. Bose and Col. Habibur Rahman arrived at the hospital in a truck and all of them were carried to the Dressing Room and they were attended to there, while they were lying on their stretchers and after having been dressed, all the Japanese were removed to one room and Mr. Bose and Col. Rahman were sent to another room, and for privacy, a screen was put Round Mr. Bose's bed. When Mr. Bose was first brought to the Dressing Room, both the Doctors (Dr. Tsuruta and Dr. Yoshimi) attended on him and his burns, which were of the severest type, were smeared with white ointment and were then bandaged. Later on, he was removed to the Ward, where an injection of Ringer's solution and after that, injections of Cardiotonica and Sulphonamide were given him. To the best of his recollection, no other injection or blood transfusion was given him, nor was his blood let out. He was present all the time in Netaji's room and Dr. Yoshimi paid occasional visits and there was no whole time nurse on duty in his room. At about 7 P.M. his condition suddenly took a turn for the worse, when they gave him injections for the heart, but to no effect, and he expired between 7 to 8 P.M. when both the doctors, Col. Rahman, Mr. Nakamura, the Military Police Guard were present.....His body remained on his bed and at the same place for the whole of the night.

ii) DR. YOSHIO, another Doctor deposed before the Khosla Commission : "When I went to the Ward, a Nurse was giving blood transfusion to Mr. Bose, but she was finding it defficult to get the needle to go into his vein.....The Nurse asked me to give the blood transfusion to the patient.....I asked the name of the patient and the Nurse told me, that gentleman was His Excellency Mr. Bose".

There were innumerable such discrepancies and contradiction and because of these irreconcilable discrepancies the so-called doctors' evidence could not be believed.

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Nor is there any reason for which Col. Habibur Rahman's evidence about the alleged plane crash and Netaji's alleged death can be accepted as the truth since truth never varies. Col. Rahman's statements, made on different occasions, do not have even a semblance of Consistency.

A comparative CHART of the statements of Col. Habibur Rahman is given below :

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## CONTRADICTIONARY STATEMENTS OF COL. HABIBUR RAHMAN

A

H. NO MENTION.

I. On August 20, 1945 Bose was removed from the Hospital and his remains were placed in a box provided by the Japanese.

J. Rahman requested the remains be flown to Singapore or Tokyo. Major Nagatomo informed Rahman on August 21, 1945 that it would be impossible to transport the remains by air due to the size of the box in which Bose was placed. Major Nagatomo suggested to Rahman at that time that the body be cremated and Rahman, after careful consideration, agreed.

K. According to Rahman, photos were taken at the scene of the crash and also at the Hospital after the death of Bose. The photos are at present in possession of the "Japanese war Office" in Tokyo.

L. NO MENTION.

B

Bose's body was kept in the room where he died, and B. 1269 remained there all the night together with Japanese guards and some patients. B. 1269 states that he did not keep any 'souvenirs' as none was available on the person of Bose after the accident all their luggage having been burnt on the plane.

A coffin made of sandal wood was brought to the Hospital and Bose's body was placed therein.

The Japanese staff colonel visited B. 1269 who requested him to make arrangements for the dead body to be taken to Singapore. B. 1269 was informed that as the coffin was too large it was not possible to transport it by plane and the idea had therefore to be dropped. B. 1269 then suggested that the body be cremated as the Japanese had said they were unable to preserve it.

".....two photographs of Bose were taken, one with the body fully covered inside the coffin, and the other with the lid of the coffin closed and B. 1269 seated by its side. Fruits and incense were placed on the coffin.

On August 22, 1945 at about 10.00 hrs. Bose's body was removed to a crematorium where a Japanese cleric who spoke excellent English, performed a religious ceremony. After this, Bose's body was taken out of the coffin and placed in a furnace. The door of the furnace was looked and the key was kept by

C

"I sat up the whole night in that room because it was quite hot and I could not sleep. The body was there and a Japanese sentry was guarding it."

"On August 20, 1945, I was informed that arrangements for the cremation had been made and soon after the coffin was put in a Japanese Military lorry or ambulance, .....after arrival at the crematorium.....Netaji's coffin was removed from the lorry..... Body was taken up of the coffin and was taken up by the Japanese inside the crematorium'.

"I told this Japanese officer that he should go and inform the Headquarters and request them on my behalf that I would like Netaji's body to be transported to Singapore where all our Government and Army Officers were present. On the morning of the August 19, at about 9-00 o'clock.....I repeated my request to the Japanese Army staff officer that the arrangements for the transportation of Netaji's body to Singapore should be made."

"The face (Netaji's) could be recognised by me.....The photo of his body (excluding the face) was taken at my request.....I learnt that photos of the burnt plane had also been taken.....I cannot exactly say why the photographs were not taken on August 18 and 19, 1945.

"On August 20, 1945, I (Rahman) was informed that arrangements for the cremation had been made and soon after the coffin was put in a Japanese military lorry or ambulance. The coffin was escorted by two lorries full of Japanese soldiers and staff of the Hospital and Japanese officers in four staff cars. There were also a few civilians present. In one of the cars, a Japanese General (Probably garrison

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## CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS OF COL. HABIBUR RAHMAN

B

Japanese Military officer. B. 1269 had declined to take charge of the key as he was at the time running a temperature and was in a very depressed state of mind. The body was then set alight by the cleric's assistant. At the cremation there were about 30 Japanese medical and military officers present. B. 1269 does not recollect any of their names. B. 1269 states that he was the only Indian present at that time. About half an hour after the body had been set alight, B. 1269 left the crematorium with others.

On August 23, 1945. B. 1269 in the Company of the cleric and staff major and 3 or 4 other Japanese visited the crematorium when the ashes of Bose were collected and placed in a wooden box specially made for the purpose, B. 1269 was shown a small piece of gold among the ashes which he believes was part of one of Bose's gold teeth. The box containing the ashes was then taken to a Japanese temple in the city, where a religious ceremony was again performed by the cleric.

C

commander) also came.....As far as I recollect one car was leading forward by the Lorry carrying Netaji's coffin, followed by escorts and other cars. I was in one of the cars in the rear. After arrival at the crematorium .....Netaji's coffin was removed from the lorry by the Japanese soldiers and the escort paid compliments according to their customs and all those present also paid compliments... As far as I remember a Japanese priest was also present at that time. Body was taken out of the coffin and was taken up by the Japanese inside the crematorium.

".....The body of Netaji was taken out of the coffin and was placed on a stretcher like thing, into the incinerator.....The door of the incinerator was locked and I kept the key with me overnight.....This was approximately between 11 and 1 noon. I was brought back to the Hospital from the crematorium after the fire was set on....."

"On the morning of August 21, 1945, I went to the crematorium accompanied by two or three Japanese including the civilian and opened the lock of the incinerator with key which was with me. I was present and I saw the ashes of Netaji's body inside it. We had a wooden urn to collect the ashes. We collected some ashes from the head side, nearest to the door, and placed them in the urn. I remember distinctly that a little piece of gold, which was from the filling of one of Netaji's teeth was removed and placed in the urn".

M. NO MENTION



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## CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS OF COL. HABIBUR RAHMAN

A

N. On September 4, 1945 he (Rahman) accompanied the ashes of Bose to GIFU Honshu, Japan from where he travelled by rail to Tokyo, arriving on Sept. 6, 1946. Rahman was met by 2/Lt. (FNU) Hasegawa, a Japanese representative of the General Staff who took him to Mr. Ramamurti's residence.

B

On September 4, 1945, B. 1269 returned to Taihoku and boarded the plane which carried 4 other Japanese passengers including Lt.-Col. Sakamaki and 3 civilians whose names were not known to B. 1269 .....B. 1269 carried with him the wooden box containing the ashes of Bose, the two photographs of Bose taken on August 21, 1945, three photographs of the wrecked plane and a rectangular wrist gold watch with a leather strap.

C

I was brought down to Taihoku airfield, and was flown to an airport, some distance away from Tokyo. Accompanying me at the time were two or three Japanese officers, probably one of them was Col. Nonogaki. The urn containing ashes of Netaji and the wooden boxes containing valuables were also taken charge of by this officer.

".....When I left Taihoku I was given a watch by the Officer Commanding of the Hospital who had treated Netaji saying that it was Netaji's watch which was removed from his wrist after his death..... Later on, I managed to hand it over to Netaji's family through Mr. Bhulabhai Desai. I was told General Shidei had been killed and 3 other had also been killed. Then 3 or 4 had died in the Hospital later on. Only 4 persons survived ... ..I was told that 4 had survived including myself out of the whole number of 12."

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Against the non-existence of any legally acceptable evidence of plane crash and Netaji's death, it was pointed out that there is massive evidence to show that Netaji not only survived the so called plane crash but was actually seen and heard by many people from different walks of life.

To give a few examples, Shri S. C. Sen Gupta of the Intelligence wing of the I.N.A., deposed that, in 1946, he had knowledge of a cable, which originated in General Mc. Arther's H.Q. to the following effect : "Subhas Bose escaped again".

Mr. Thomas of Penang deposed that he knew that Netaji had gone to Mongolia or Outer Mongolia in his own car which tallies with Shri Shamlal Jair's evidence that Pandit Nehru gave him a note to type ( he was working as a typist during the historical Red Fort Trial ) which described Netaji's escape by a Jeep.

Late Shri Deben Sen M.P., along with Shri Joglekar, another labour leader, saw Netaji in 1946 at Mersailles Air Port in France on their way to I.L.O. Conference in Geneva and the authenticity of this meeting was confirmed by both Shri Chapala Kanta Bhattacharyya, the then Editor of Ananda Bazar Patrika, Calcutta and Shri Mukund Parekh (late Shri Deben Sen's P.A.) Shri Jagdish Kodesia, Ex. President of Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee deposed that the Bishop of Dalat had told him in 1961 that when Netaji's alleged death was announced, he was actually staying with the Bishop.

Shri T. L. Shashivarna Thevar deposed that his cousin Sri Mathuramalinga Thevar, Ex. M. P., had gone abroad in 1949 and met Netaji in Korea as well as in China. Shri Barun Sen Gupta of Ananda Bazar Patrika and at present, the Editor of Bartaman, deposed that when in 1955 he met late Shri Mathuramalinga Thevar, this legendary hero of South India told him : "I was talking to Netaji, as I am talking to you".

Sardar Niranjan Singh Talib (deceased), Ex. M.P., and Ex. President of Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee and an Ex-Cabinet Minister of Punjab, deposed that he met one Mr. Wagg, an American Journalist and Political Correspondent

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of Chicago Tribune, in late Sardar Baldeb Singh's (the then Defence Minister of India) house, who had showed him some photographs showing Netaji in Indo-China and had said him "Netaji disappeared in Indo-China and he did not die in crash". Sardar Niranjana Singh Talib further deposed that Sardar Sardul Singh (deceased), an Ex-President of Forward Bloc, told him that late Sardar had received some communications from some important Sikhs of Sanghai that Netaji had conferred with them much after August 18, 1945.

This evidence of Mr. Talib was corroborated by Sri Amiya Nath Bose, Dwijendra Nath Bose (both nephew of Netaji) and also from the different News Paper Reports of that relevant period.

There is no acceptable evidence of Plane crash and death and on the other hand, there is massive evidence also to show that Netaji was heard and seen by innumerable persons much after August, 1945.

Therefore nothing remained on which a finding could be given that there was a plane crash.

**In summing up it is submitted :**

a) No document has been produced either before the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee or the Khosla Commission to show that at least one plane flew in the skies of Taihoku on 18th August, 1945.

b) All the Japanese evidence including the alleged co-passengers and Military Personnels' evidence is hearsay evidence on the alleged death.

c) No documentary evidence has been produced to show that the so-called passengers actually boarded the alleged ill-fated plane. Their identity even has not been established by applying ordinary legal procedure.

d) None of them knew Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from before.

e) Therefore, nothing remains to come to a finding that there was a plane crash.

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f) Habibur Rahman's evidence is non est.

g) Only the Doctors claimed to have seen Netaji dying but their evidence is at such variance at material particulars and fundamentals, that the same has no evidentiary value. Verily, their evidence has to be rejected as being full of lies and contradictions.

**O. Against the above, there are the following facts :**


i) Fake plane crash was planned according to the evidence of Sri U. C. Sharma, S. C. Sen Gupta, the Intelligence Officer of I.N.A., Dr. B. Ramachandra Rao, Shri E. Bhaskaran and Shri Debnath Das. Mr. Kishi's written statement before Shah Nawaz Committee also proved that a fake plane crash was planned. Iyer's hand written note submitted to Nehru in 1951 mentioned his meeting with Col. TADA, who informed him that there was such a plan. Col. TADA was a staff Officer to F. M. Terauchi.

ii) Shri Biren Chakravarty's (ex. Captain of the CSDIC) report and evidence showing that there was no plane crash. He should know as his global Intelligence Organization was trying to find out the veracity of the plane crash story.

iii) Shri Mulkha Gobinda Reddy, Ex. M. P., Shri H. V. Kamath, ex M. P., Shri Prakash Vir Shastri, ex M. P. and others claim that the official report prepared by the Formosan Government definitely leads to the conclusion that there was no plane crash.

iv) Shri Pritam Singh's (of Taiwan) evidence of Mayor's (of Taipei) report where it says conclusively that on that day or a day before or after that day, there was no plane crash at Taihoku.

v) Shri Alfred Wagg, the Political correspondent of Chicago Tribune, meeting Netaji and taking his photographs in Indo-China. This piece of evidence



has come through the evidence of Sardar Niranjana Singh Talib, Shri Amiya Nath Bose, Shri Dwijen Bose and others and also from the newspaper report of the relevant period.

Japanese surrendered on the 15th. As Netaji did not accept the offer of asylum by the Japanese Government, they had to hand him over to the victorious Allies. But the fact is that they did not. And the fact is that the Head of the Hikari Kikan was closetted with him on the 17th of August morning (he admitted that in his evidence), which he obviously, under the terms of surrender could not do officially. Was not this close door conference in direct violation of the terms of surrender to be strictly followed by the vanquished? It was. But the fact is that the Japanese risked this close door conference and the fact also is that they had tremendous respect for Netaji.

(Remember in this connection Tojo's bowing whenever Netaji's name is mentioned in the Tokyo Trial and Count Terauchi's instructions to Tada that even against the orders of the Imperial Japanese Headquarters, he was prepared to help Netaji to escape. Had they had, under the circumstances, any other alternative but to give out this story of plane crash? They had none. The vanquished Japanese could not help Netaji, the greatest foe of the British, openly, but they were going to help him without arousing suspicion. They had no other alternative but to give out the crash story. This is the reason and that is why the details about crash story and the alleged death are so scrappy and at variance.

Sri S. A. Iyer had used the word "disappeared" with reference to Netaji's departure in the plan agreed upon both by the Japanese as well as by Netaji. It is to be considered what this word "disappeared" could actually signify and what the correct word in this connection should be. The plan was that the Japanese would remove Netaji to a safe zone, so as to prevent his arrest by the Anglo-Americans, after he was safe in Russian territory and out of their clutches, the Japanese would make the announcement regarding Netaji.



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As the Japanese were also surrendering to the same Anglo-Americans, they could, under no circumstances make an announcement that they had removed alive or had otherwise helped the disappearance of their erstwhile ally, Netaji, and who was an arch enemy of the Anglo-Americans and who were naturally very keen on arresting him. So, after having removed Netaji in a plane from his theatre of activities and away from his countrymen and beyond the control of the Anglo-Americans, the Japanese duly announced that Netaji had died, as a result of a plane crash. So, under such circumstances, the Japanese had no other alternative but to declare that Netaji had died and thereafter, the word "disappeared" used by Sri Iyer could only mean "died" and nothing else.

As Netaji was travelling in a plane, it was the easiest thing for them to announce that Netaji's death was caused by a plane crash accident and which is obviously a readily believable story and which was actually what they had announced.

The facts and circumstances narrated above, give a very clear, convincing and readily-believable story that, in accordance with Netaji's final request to be taken to Manchuria, with the ultimate object of going to Russia, the Japanese Government flew him in a brand new bomber plane from Bangkok to Saigon and then onward to Dairen in Manchuria, Netaji's final destination under the auspices of the Japanese.

#### **P. Some Informations Indicating Netaji's Arrival In Manchuria :**

"On the 18th (August) morning a message was received in the Red Fort relayed from Trincomali from the American Naval Intelligence,.....stating that a twinengine bomber had been sighted and mentioning also the direction, altitude and speed of the aircraft. The Military Intelligence hurriedly looked into their records, held a Court Martial and quickly decided that this was probably an air craft maintaining the line of communication and it should be allowed to pass but it should be kept under observation from a certain distance-reasonable

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distance. No importance was given to information at that time. [Proceedings of Netaji Inquiry Commission 1970, Page-3712]

[‘On the 20th night a message was received from Macao about Parachute landing of three persons in the area between Harbin and Tiensin.....Later on I heard from my colleagues in the CSDIC that this area where three persons were parachuted down was covered by the Japanese Intelligence Organisation under two Officers, namely, Itto and Indo-one was a captain and the other was a Lt. Colonel’. [Proceedings of Netaji Inquiry Commission 1970, evidence of Capt. Biren Chakraborty, Page-3687].

“Later on when other pieces of information were pouring in, particularly when the statements of responsible INA Officers were being recorded, it was quickly ascertained that this particular message had a singular importance because this was the plane which took off with Gen. Shidei at 10-30 and which tallied with all information on record regarding the visit of Netaji and his party to the headquarters of Field Marshal Terauchi”. [Proceedings of Netaji Inquiry Commission, 1970, Page-3713].

“Later on it was detected.....the plane was sighted in the air any time between 10 and 10-30. On that particular date it was not so important. It was taken as a message. Later on terrific weight was thrown on this.” [Proceedings of Netaji Inquiry Commission, 1970, Pages-3723-3724].

**Q. British Government's Dilemma Regarding "Treatment of Bose".**

Presumably, the Anglo-American Intelligence came to know that Netaji escaped to Manchuria. Knowing that, Wavell Government faced a serious dilemma regarding the course of their "treatment of Bose". Probably the "Top Secret Note" of Sir F. M. Mudie, Home Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, was the startling revelation of the information of Netaji's 'escape' to Manchuria. They were very much afraid of Netaji's influence over the I.N.A. and entire people of South East Asia. So, they thought, "that in certain circumstances his presence in Russia would be so dangerous as to rule it out altogether".

16c

As regards the treatment of Bose, six possibilities were suggested by Sri F. M. Mudie. One of those possibilities was "Leave him where he is and don't ask for his surrender.....In many ways the easiest course would be to leave him where he is and not ask for his release. He might, of course, in certain circumstances be welcomed by the Russians. This course would raise fewest immediate political difficulties but the security authorities consider that in certain circumstances his presence in Russia would be so dangerous as to rule it out altogether". So, it can be said that 23-8-45 the Anglo-Americans knew that Netaji was in Manchuria at the relevant time. (Transfer of Power, Vol. VI).

From the available documents, informations and circumstantial evidence one might come to the conclusion that as early as 1944, Netaji had set up Intelligence Organisation at Harbin, Tiensin and Dairen in Manchuria to arrange for his escape to Russia.

An A. P. I. message issued from Madras on April 4 (1946) which says : "Subhas Chandra Bose is in Manchuria and doing well.....Sevika, a vernacular paper of Malaya, recently carried a news item from London dated March 27, 1946 which stated that Bose was heard over the radio from Manchuria".

## CONCLUSION

The last official stand taken by the office of Prime Minister of India on the floor of Lok Sabha was on 3rd September, 1978, when Shri Morarji Desai stated : "Shah Nawaz Committee and Khosla Commission hold the report of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's death following a plane Crash as true. Since then reasonable doubts have been cast on the correctness in the two reports and various important contradictions in the testimony of the witnesses have been noticed. Some further contemporary official documentary records have also become available. In the light of those doubts and contradictions and those records, Government find it difficult to accept that the earlier conclusions are decisive".

The claim in support of Netaji's death consequent to the alleged accident at TAIHOKU on 18-8-1945 was based almost entirely on the evidence provided by Col. Habibur Rahman, A. D. C. to Netaji, and the Japanese doctor, T. Yoshimi. Col. Rahman maintained, he accompanied Netaji on the reported fateful journey but survived the tragedy. Dr. Yoshimi submitted that he unsuccessfully treated Netaji in hospital after the reported incident.

Col. Rahman was twice interrogated by Allied Intelligence and he also appeared before the Shah Nawaz Committee. A chart of his statements on these three occasions indicate the rather inconsistent nature of his descriptions is enclosed earlier. The Combined Services Detailed Interrogation Centre (CSDIC) recorded on 25th March, 1946 : "It appears that Habibur Rahman is not willing to come out with the truth". In fact, the Intelligence Bureau, in New Delhi categorically recorded on 19-5-1946 : "Habibur Rahman's statement is unsatisfactory. The multitude on discrepancies in accounts of actual Air Crash as given first to Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC) in Tokyo and later to C. S. D. I. C. is being taken up".

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The matter had indeed already been taken up at the highest level of the British Government on 25-10-1945. When the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom chaired a meeting to consider, among other items, what to do with Netaji in the post-war situation. The same day the British Cabinet discussed a confidential note sent by the then Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell regarding the finalisation of a policy towards "BOSE". (Transfer of Power, Vol. VI).

On 19-2-1946 the Intelligence Bureau in New Delhi communicated to its counter part in Singapore : "It is beyond doubt that he (Bose) had plans to go underground with a number of selected friends of his movement". (after the Japanese surrender in World War-II). Lord Wavell's diary of 24-8-1945 reveals : "I wonder if the Japanese announcement of Subhas Bose's death in an air Crash is true, I suspect it very much, it is just what would be given out if he meant to go underground". The then Commander of the Allied Forces in South East Asia, Lord Mountbatten's diary indicates that he received a despatch from the British Director of Military Intelligence in Chungking after the news about the Netaji's alleged death was broadcast from Tokyo, which said : "When Bose was preparing to leave Burma with his family by plane, Chinese intercepted Japanese message ordering Bose to separate from his family and remain in Burma. D.M.I.'s supposition is that though Bose's family were in the plane that crashed, Bose was not there and he subsequently escaped into Thailand." British Intelligence further believed that the Governor of the Afghan Province of khost had been informed by the Soviet Ambassador in Kabul that there were many Congress refugees in Moscow after the War and Bose was included in their number. The assessment being : "There is little reason for such persons to bring Bose into fabricated stories".

E. Bhaskaran, Confidential Assistant to Netaji in Bangkok, who lives in Madras, corroborates that a message was sent by Netaji in 1945 to the Japanese to convey to Moscow of his desire to go to the Soviet Union. Naeemur-Rahman, son of Habibur Rahman, who resides in Islamabad, claims that his father told him that he had accompanied Netaji on a visit to Tokyo two or three



months before the alleged crash in course of such a meeting had taken place between Netaji and Soviet Ambassador in Tokyo to finalise plans of the proposed trip to Russia.

All the above information casting doubts on the veracity of Netaji's death following a plane crash have surfaced in the mid-1970s and after as a result of declassification of British Government records under the 30 year rule and were, therefore, not presented as evidence before either the Shah-Nawaz Committee or the Khosla Commission.

Dr. Yoshimi's version of events also varies between three depositions he made on the subject. A chart highlighting these are also enclosed earlier. Further more, there does not appear to be any documentary evidence of a plane crash having taken place at Taihoku on 18-8-1945. Besides, the cremation certificate said to be connected with Netaji's body is, strangely, in the name of a Ichiro Okura "a non-staff member of the Japanese Armed Forces". The birth day of the deceased in the certificate is given as 9th April, 1900. Netaji was born on 23-1-1897. Also, the cause of death is given as a "heart-attack". If Dr. Yoshimi's statement is correct, Netaji could only have died of third degree burns. The date of death in the certificate is given as 19-8-1945. According to Dr. Yoshimi, Netaji died on the night, August 18-8-1945. It has never been satisfactorily explained how the cremation certificate in question had any link with Netaji. If the intention of the then Japanese authorities was to conceal the story of Netaji's death, this did not tally with the Japanese Government's official announcement of his demise to the world.

A copy of the cremation Certificate is given overleaf.

No.	Name of Disease	Date of Death Date of Permission Date of Cremation	Occupation	Sex	Parmanent Domicile Present Address	Name of Deceased	Date of Birth	Applicant Address	Name
2640									
2641	Heart Attack	August 19, 1945 August 21, 1945 August 22, 1945	Non-Regular Staff member of Armed Forces	Male	No. 1, 2 Chome Dogenzaka, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, No. 2, 3-Chome Nogi-machi, Taipei City	OCHIRO OKURA	April 9, 1900.	Unit No. 21123	Taneyoshi Yoshimi
2642		Place of Burial & Cremation. Municipal Crematory				Examined and authenticated by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs.			
2643						Sd/-			
2644						YASUTERU ASAHINA Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Archives Section)			

It is certified that the above statement, abstracted from document on cremation permit is correct and true.

July 14, 1966.  
Bureau of Health and Hygiene,  
Taipeh Municipal Office. (SEALED)

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P. C. Kar, an official in the Governor's House in Bengal when R. G. Casey was the Governor, claimed that the monitoring service at the Governor's House picked up three broadcasts of Netaji on the 31 metre band in December, 1945 and January and February, 1946. A note on this item was put up before Mr. Casey. This may be verified from records existing either with the Government of India or the official Records Office in Britain.

On 22-7-1946 Khurshed Naoroji one of Mahatma Gandhi's Secretaries, replying to a letter from Louis Fischer to Gandhiji, remarked: "At heart the Indian Army is sympathetic with the Indian National Army (INA). If Bose comes with the help of Russia neither Gandhiji nor the Congress will be able to reason with the country." It is intriguing that almost a year after the reported air crash at Taihoku, Gandhiji's camp were apprehending Netaji's return to India from the Soviet Union instead of being convinced of his death. A photo copy of the original hand-written letter by Shri Naoroji is also enclosed herewith.

The 'INTERPRESS', a German Magazine, published an article on 28th October, 1949 under the caption, 'SUBHAS CHANDRA BASU' which stressed: "BABU BOSE: MANN HINTER DEN FRONTEN. (MAN BEHIND THE FRONT)"

"In 1945, when a chaos was prevailing over the whole of China on the victory of the Allied Powers, he (Basu) could have easily enter into the Soviet Boarder in exchange of immense gold kept with him and leave for Moscow in a special plan to keep himself underground in a lonely place there. Then what does the news about **his secret journey by a Steamer to Irish Free State mean**, of which the British Port-authorities were not at all aware, yet Mr. Galahar, the leader of the British Communist Party has referred to on the occasion of a discussion on the freedom-movement of India?

"Budha-Faced, veteran Yogi Shri Basu will, perhaps, once become the freedom-giver of not only India but also Asia.

"Another important event was **his journey to Switzerland**. Lenin had himself in Switzerland. The people of the world know the political thoughts of Sri Basu.

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"His immense influence has spread all over India. If he **remains alive and that is to be sure possible**,—the whole world, then, one day, will hear again his speech." (Appendix-A)

Dr. Radha Binod Pal, the jurist of international fame and one of the Judges of the historic Tokyo War Crimes' Tribunal, wrote a letter (Appendix-B) on 14-2-53 to Shri A. M. Nair of Tokyo, in which he has written, "As a matter of fact, I could not accept as true the story of Netaji's death at Formosa. In any case, I feel that the whole thing demands a thorough investigation. Statements by individuals made here and there will not convince me as to the truth of the whole story given out. I have reasons to doubt its correctness".

As late as February, 1954 the American magazine 'National Republic' carried an article by Elliot Erikson, which asserted : "There is a strong possibility that Bose is alive. Numerous people report seeing him after his death, including a nurse in a Field Hospital who treated him for minor injuries. His body was never found and Allied Intelligence officials could find no evidence that he died in the wreckage of the plane he was supposed to have fallen in".

Documents on Netaji categorised as "top Secret" and had never been made accessible, are in the possession of the USSR National Archives, according to Dr. E. S. Yurlova of the Soviet Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow. These may now be made available to genuinely interested parties in view of the prevailing policy of Glasnost in the Soviet Union. [Hindusthan Times, New Delhi, March 5, 1990].

#### CLUES TO TRUTH :

- a) War records of the U. K. Government Relating to Subhas Chandra Bose and I.N.A. including the following documents :
  - i) Report of C.S.D.I.C. signed by Capt. Biren Chakraborty on or 30/31st December, 1945 and counter signed by Col. Stevenson :

ii) Report of Figges., submitted to the Government of India on October 8, 1945 and Report of Intelligence Bureau, New Delhi, dated May 19, 1946 (No. C-5) ;

iii) Documents on Netaji Categorised as 'Top Secret' are in the possession of the U. K. National Archives, which will be published after 125 yrs. from the date of Transfer of Power.

iv) Diary of Lord Mountbatten ;

v) Anglo-American Intelligence Report ;

vi) Communication between Mac. Aurther and Lord Mountbatten relating to Subhas Chandra Bose ;

vii) H.Q. Main File 273 Misc. I.N.A. 10 Misc. ;

viii) File No. 249-INA-I and II(H) G.H.Q. case on Subhas Chandra Bose ;

ix) Secret No. 63/2/10 G. S. I(b) H.Q. SACSEA COMMISSION No. I, Saigon, 18th October, 1945 ;

x) Report of SACSEA COMMISSION I, relating to Subhas Chandra Bose and I.N.A. ;

xi) Allied Secret Report Sub : Subhas Chandra Bose and INA ;

xii) Report of SEATIC SECTION Intelligence Assault Unit. 7th IND DIV ALF SIAM with all the SEATIC DOCUMENTS 128 ;

xiii) Records of Tokyo Trial (War Criminals) ;

b) War Records of U.S.A. relating to Subhas Chandra Bose and I.N.A. including the following documents :

i) U. S. Naval Intelligence Report relating to Netaji's activities from 17th August to 25th August ;

ii) Communication from General Mac. Aurther to the U.S.A. President, Truman between August 17 to August 31, 1945 regarding Subhas Chandra Bose ;

iii) Allied Intelligence Report on Subhas Chandra Bose and I.N.A. ;

iv) Record of Tokyo Trial (War Criminals) ;




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v) Communication between Mac. Aurther and Mountbatten during the period of August 17 and August 31, 1945 relating to Subhas Chandra Bose.

- c) War records of U.S.S.R. in connection with Subhas Chandra Bose and I.N.A.
- d) War records of Japan from 1944 to August 31, 1945 in relation with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and I.N.A.
- e) War records of Germany (both East & West) from 1941 to 1943 relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and I.N.A.
- f) War records of China with special reference, presence and activities of Subhas Chandra Bose and I.N.A. personnels at Shanghai, Unan and Sinkiang during July and August, 1945.
- g) Prime Minister's Secretariat File during the period of Pandit Nehru including the following Secret Files :

1A, 2-A, 3-A, 6-A, 8-A, 16-A [ U. O. Note No. D/S-86 6, dated August 24, 1953, from P.M's Secretariat to Mohd. Yunus, MEA (SEA. BR), 17-A (U.O. Note No. D. 3788-8EA/53, dated August 27, 1953, from Mohd. Yunus US, ME A (SEA) to P. M's Secretariat, 27-A [Memo No. 2/53/1971/3/601 (151) dated October 13, 1953 from Mohd. Yunus. MEA (SEA) to P.M's Secretariat ], 33-B (letter No. 20/62 (Accts) dated April 82, 1954, from the Joint Secretary, INA (Enquiry and Relief Committee, 82, Daryaganj, Delhi to the President), 34A (Rajya Sabha's Starred Question No. 560 dated September 28, 1954), 35-B (Note for supplimentaries), 37-A (Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 334 dated August 2, 1955), 37-BCD (Enclosures to S.No. 37-A). And Notes 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 29, File No. 23 (156)/51-P.M. [ Indian National Army (INA) in the Far East ], 23(II)/56-57PM [ INA Treasure], 12 (226)/56 PM [Investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of Subhas Chandra Bose ]

- h) History of INA (by Late Dr. Pratul Chandra Gupta) lies with the Defence Department since long.

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- i) Pandit Nehru's letter to Mr. Attlee, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom during 1945 to 1947, relating to Subhas Chandra Bose.
  - j) Communication between Louis Fischer and Gandhiji, Louis Fischer and Khurshed Naoroji, Louis Fischer and President of U.S.A and also top Political Leaders of U.S.A., Louis Fischer and the Prime Minister of U. K. and other top Political Leaders of U. K. in relation to Netaji and India's independence.
  - k) "Top Secret" documents relating to Subhas Chandra Bose are in the possession of the USSR National Archives.

In 1945-46 and even some years after the British left India, all news about the report of alleged incident of Taihoku were found to be very scanty, hazy and highly confusing. These news appeared as more misleading than giving any direct clue to find the truth about the report of Netaji's alleged death. The Anglo-American investigating agencies could get hold of only a few documents like the four signals at Bangkok and five photographs from Tokyo. These agencies had, therefore, to rely more on the oral evidence from the Japanese and the INA sources than on positive documents to arrive at any definite conclusion about their findings.

However, in later years, when the post-war political complications, receded, more facts came to light first before Shah Nawaz Committee in 1956 and then before Khosla Commission in 1970. These facts have been carefully scrutinised and analysed in the foregoing chapters, and briefly summarised in the present one. After what have been found factually uptill now, they lead to one and only one conclusion, that the story of Netaji's alleged death at Taihoku was deliberately concocted by the Japanese authorities to enable him to reach the Russian territory across the Manchurian border.


After coming to know the fact of Bose's escape, the Wavell Government in Delhi in 1945 faced a serious dilemma regarding the course of their "treatment of Bose". They were confronted with many problems: Will they ask the country which kept Bose in secret custody to surrender him to the British authority? After

getting Bose in their hands will they try and hang him ? Or, will they intern him either in India or in some remote island in the Indian Ocean ? The Home Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, Sir Mudie, prepared a 'Note' for Wavell incorporating various suggestions for "treatment of Bose". It was prepared on August 23, 1945, i.e., 7 days after the announcement of Bose's death by the Tokyo Radio. The Viceroy of India in 1945 approved this 'Note' and carried it to London for its final approval by the British Cabinet. The U.K. Cabinet, with Mr. Attlee in the chair, cleared this 'Note' on October 25, 1945, i.e., 67 days after the report of Netaji's alleged death. This 'Note' included various alternatives "regarding treatment of Bose": namely to "(a), bring him back to India and try him either for waging war or under the Enemy Agents Ordinance ; (b) have him tried by a Court in Burma or Malaya for waging war against the King in that country ; (c) have him tried by a military court outside India ; (d) intern him in India ; (e) intern him in some British possession i.e., Seychelles Islands".

After analysing the pros and cons of all these suggested measures to punish and execute or intern Bose, the 'Note' finally decided to :

"LEAVE HIM WHERE HE IS AND DON'T ASK FOR HIS SURRENDER..... IN MANY WAYS THE EASIEST COURSE WOULD BE TO LEAVE HIM WHERE HE IS AND NOT ASK FOR HIS RELEASE. HE MIGHT, OF COURSE, IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES BE WELCOMED BY THE RUSSIANS. THIS COURSE WOULD RAISE FEWEST IMMEDIATE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES".

Could there be any other more definite revelation than the above 'Note' that the British Government knew quite positively where Netaji escaped and where he was compelled to stay for the reason beyond his control ? Notwithstanding this positive information regarding the whereabouts of Bose, the British Government considered it politically more prudent or expedient for them not to publicly disclose the matter at that time, nor to ask as well for his hand-over to them for his trial for waging war against the 'king' but "to leave him where he is". For 30 years the British Government withheld this explosive information from the



Indian people. They must have done it for the sake of their Imperialist interest, but what about our own Government,-the first Government of Free India ? What did they do for Netaji ? Was it unknown to them where Netaji was compelled to stay for unavoidable circumstances reason beyond his control ?

On being fully conscious about the whereabouts of Netaji, the then Indian leaders deliberately suppressed the facts and circumstances leading to his disappearance out of vengeance and at the same time, for their political gain. The damage done by the predecessors of the present Prime Minister of India in regard to the investigations relating to the mysterious disappearance of Netaji is not beyond salvage. A fresh impartial 'investigative enquiry' and an all-out effort of the present Prime Minister to that effect can still unearth the hitherto untold story.

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## APPENDIX- A

### INTERPRESS

Ausgabe Politik

335/1949

(Internationaler Biographischer Pressdienst.)  
(International Biographic Press Service).

### SUBHAS CHANDRA BASU

The fact is being gradually embodied from the contemporary events that Subhas Chandra Basu, the Indian Revolutionist, who was declared dead in an air-crash after the Second World-War, is waiting for an opportunity to hold his grip over the political back-ground of Asia.

### BABU BOSE: MANN HINTER DEN FRONTEN. (MAN BEHIND THE FRONT.)

There has been a nuclear explosion by the side of India in October last, which is of a political nature and experimental only. But it has been inevitably resulted in. It came to be known within a few days by a radio announcement that Subhas Chandra Basu, the lost Indian Revolutionist, might deliver a speech over the Communist Radio of Peking. Of course, nothing has been heard after this mysterious announcement. But nobody said that he had a doubt that Shri Basu was actually alive. One thing more, just at that time, when such a type of epochmaking political explosion took place at the north of Himalayas, Shri Nehru who was once a colleague and at present in opposition to Shri Basu was found to be staying in Washington at the invitation of President Truman. Is this just a sudden event? Most of the Americans hoped that Shri Nehru would keep himself mum about this. Shri Nehru has done this. Of course he has said that he is ready to go to Moscow also if he be invited to go there. Did he understand from the outset of this incident that this event was a prologue for the advent of a man with a massive nuclear power? As Lenin, in the revolutionary moment of 1917, reached Russia singling out Germany as his destination, Shri Basu also has once more adopted that measure for the interest of India.

It was this Basu who appeared in Tokyo directly within a year after his meeting with Hitler in May, 1942. The mystery how this dauntless expedition became possible in this war-ravaged Eastern Hemisphere of the world, has not yet come to light. But it was sure that Hitler had helped him by providing longranged aeroplanes, U-Boats, Blockade-breakers and many other war-materials. Shri Basu, perhaps, considered the U-Boat expedient for his journey. The way of his disappearance from India secretly, in January, 1941, was dangerous too. Only at the age of sixteen, school student Shri Basu had once left for the Himalayas as a lonely and helpless visitor and roamed about from temple to temple in search of the eternal truth. This anti-British man had acquired the art of disguise accurately, while he was a student at the University of Cambridge. During his stay in Vienna between 1932 and 1935, he had acquired the art of face make-up from an Indian residing abroad. A picture, entitled "The Tiger of Ishanpur" was being prepared in Germany under the direction of that man at that time. This skill became useful to him, when, in February, 1941, he succeeded to reach Kabul with a view to meet the German Ambassador in Afghanistan throwing dust in the vigilant eyes of the Indo-British rulers, in spite of the warrant of arrest against him. At last the Italian Embassy assigned an Italian name to him and gave him a false passport as an Italian national.



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Ten years before this incident, he was once a guest of Mussolini during his journey on Vienna to Rome. But this time, he was eager to meet Hitler and Ribbentrop as soon as possible. His first destination was Berlin. He crossed the border of Germany as an assistant of a German Engineer and arranged for visiting Moscow as a foreign tourist. The journey to Moscow through the Caucasus was decided, be it well or worse. The Indian Shri Basu did not know Italian but could understand Russian a little. But the Soviet people thought him to be a veteran through his gesture and posture. He did not utter a single word in the Passport Department and had spent a week in a comfortable room of a train, taking, tea, milk, vodka and large amount of beef. This was a matter of immense mental strength for a Caste-Hindu like him. But nothing such was improper to the superstition-less revolutionist Shri Basu. It was known to the Russians that he deeply studied Bolshevism as well as Facism. And both Mussolini and Stalin were his ideals. So, Kremlin greeted him warmly. Not a single word was uttered against him from Moscow, when he extended his support to Hitler and the Japanese. In the summer of 1933, he pronounced that no Asian could lend his support in favour of Nazi Policy. But in 1942, when he put forward the proposal for the freedom-movement to the nation, he was convinced that Germany and Japan, the enemy of the British, would naturally lend their support to the Indians fighting for freedom.

But he did not find days well in Berlin. He went on waiting for months in the secluded room of a hotel with the hope to get some response. But he became utterly disappointed when he saw that the Soviet Union was attacked by war-monger Hitler. He remarked, "In this world war, this event is the gross error". Shri Basu then put some faith in Japan only. The participation of Japan in the Second World War suddenly brought about an unimaginable change in the South-East Asia, and, Shri Basu had played a great role in this political game of the world. He invaded Singapore and formed the Indian Revolutionary Government there. Accompanied by the Azad Hind Fauz equipped with Japanese arms and ammunitions, he marched towards India through Burma. This was well-known to him, as he had passed through it as a Prisoner many times on his way to the Mandalay Jail.

The Revolutionary Army marching towards the Indian border had not been taken by the Indians as traitors, rather, was welcomed as heroes. And their 'Leader' was Shri Basu himself.

There is a proverb in India, "A person who is declared dead before his death gets a prolonged life". There was, beforehand, a news at the outset of the last war, that Shri Basu had died in an air-crash. This False-News brought a lot of gariands and condolence-letters to the family of this man, who was already officially declared as a traitor, from every corner of the country. In spite of this, Gandhi could not agree with Mr. Nehru, the then leader of India, on this discussion. Gandhi remarked about this dangerous man that, "Whatever he may be, he is not an enemy of our country. He has helped to a great extent to get the freedom - movement advanced". Having heard this sad news in April, 1942, Gandhi wrote in a condolent letter to the mother of Shri Basu, "He is the great and heroic son of India". But after a few days, his voice was heard over radio.

Shri Basu has been again announced to be dead after the Second World War. This announcement is also the result of the joint proclamation of the Government and the Enquiry Commission of the Allied Powers. Though in a Broadcast from Tokyo, it has been announced that Shri Basu was wounded and was later dead in an air-crash on his way to Formosa from the Taihoku airport, none in the world has paid any heed to this news. No one in

108 has at all believed it. On 21st October, 1946, after a year of this accident, the Inquiry Commission of the Allied Powers proclaimed the decision that Shri Basu had actually passed away on 18th August, 1945, in a military hospital in Formosa. But man like Gandhi declared later, that, according to their views, Shri Basu was still alive. The Government of India said that they could not declare Shri Basu to be dead. The elder brother of Shri Basu has remarked at a National Conference of India, "I know nothing about this". No news was collected from the citizens of Japan, who were in Tokyo, till the day when the American soldiers entered Tokyo. The bodyguard of Shri Basu saw a large and mysterious box with him on the day of his last departure.

No one has seen the body to be burning. Many experienced men of the East-Asia know that Japan announced many eminent persons to be "dead by air-crash" at the time of surrender. Subhas Chandra Basu, at the age of fifty, was man with good health, psychologically strong and a fore-seeing politician. Immediately after his joining with the Japanese, he had a doubt as to the result on the joint expedition of the Japanese army and his army. It can not be ignored that this strong and forseeing man did not think for future. Was it now known to him how Moscow would utilise the Renaissance of Nationalism in Asia in the greater political game at present or in future?

In 1945, when a chaos was prevailing over the whole of China on the victory of the Allied Powers, he could have easily enter into the Soviet Border in exchange of immense gold kept with him and leave for Moscow in a special plane to keep himself underground in a lonely place there. Then what does the news about his secret journey by a Steamer to Irish Free State mean, of which the British Port-authorities were not at all aware, yet Mr. Galahar, the leader of the British Communist Party has referred to on the occasion of a discussion on the freedom-movement of India?

Millions of people in India still believe that there will be a change after an epoch, the result of which will make this country once more a heavenly one. BUDDHA-FACED, VETERAN YOGI SHRI BASU WILL, PERHAPS, ONCE BECOME THE FREEDOM-GIVER OF NOT ONLY INDIA BUT ALSO ASIA.

Another important event was his journey to Switzerland. Lenin had himself in Switzerland. The people of the world know the political thoughts of Shri Basu.

His immense influence has spread all over India. If he remains alive and that is to be sure possible - the whole world, then, one day, will hear again his speech.

28.10.1949

INTERPRESS. INTERNATIONAL BIOGRAPHIC  
PRESS SERVICE.  
PUBLICATION CODE 335/1949.

APPENDIX B

21, BEADON STREET,  
CALCUTTA-6

14th Feb. 1953.

Dear Mr. Wair,

I am thankful for your letter dated the 5th instant.

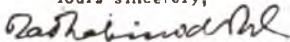
It is really surprising that my name should be used in that manner. I did not go to any temple either with or without the ambassador to see the alleged ashes. As a matter of fact I could not accept as true the story of Netaji's death at Formosa. In any case I feel that the whole thing demands a thorough investigation. Statements by individuals made here and there will not convince me as to the truth of the story given out. I have reasons to doubt its correctness.

I am glad that Mr. Shimonaka and Mr. Tanaka are doing their best to educate the public mind of Japan. Satyen has come back. He tells me that Mr. Shimonaka has already engaged a house near Yokohama for starting the school that I suggested during my last visit. I shall indeed be happy if the scheme materializes.

Kindly remember me to all my Japanese friends and convey to them my best regards.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



(RADHABINOD PAL)

Official Committee for the purpose of the enquiry into Netaji's disappearance.

So, it is not understood as to why an Official Committee was formed soon after by the self-same authority. This change in decision was eventually also brought about by some pressing necessity. One cannot help noticing that these are, after all, very curious and confusing statements and everchanging decisions, viz.

(i) The question of Netaji's death, being settled beyond doubt and there can be no enquiry about that, was changed to, - the only satisfactory enquiry that can be made, is, by the Japanese Government. Therefore, the decision, - no enquiry, - gives place to an enquiry by the Japanese Government.

(ii) The decision, viz., no enquiry and enquiry by the Japanese Government, vanishes and an Enquiry by the Indian Government takes place eventually.

(iii) The opinion, viz., not in favour of setting up an Official Committee, - disappears, - and soon after, an Official Committee, is actually formed and made to function.

(iv) The sudden change in these long-cherished ideas and Plans is certainly significant and was evidently due to certain unforeseen circumstances, that suddenly cropped up immediately after our Prime Minister's categorical statements made in the Parliament on the 29th September, 1955, and which, apparently, resulted from the initiative taken in the meeting of the Netaji Memorial Committee, stated above, for the formation of a Non-official Committee, that would soon

contd.....3..



WHY THE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE OF 1956 WAS APPOINTED?

(Shah Nawaz Committee)

(a) Prime Minister Nehru, in reply to questions put in the Parliament by Shri H.V.Kamath, on 05.03.1952, was pleased to state, "I have no doubt in my mind - I did not have it then and I have no doubt today of the fact of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's death" - "I have said that the question of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's death is, I think, settled beyond doubt. There can be no enquiry about that".

(b) In reply to a question put in the Parliament by Shri H.V.Kamath, on the 29th September, 1955, Prime Minister Nehru was pleased to state, "In a matter of this kind, the only enquiry that is to say, satisfactory enquiry that can be made, is, by the Japanese Government. The matter is in Japan, the whole thing is there. We cannot impose ourselves or a Enquiry Committee on the Japanese Government. Of course, if they choose to enquire we will gladly co-operate and give such help as we can. But we cannot simply enquire into their territory and more specially also when all the possible witnesses are probably either Japanese Government officials or others connected with that Government".

".....And as I said, the initiative must come from the Japanese Government in this matter. If it comes, naturally, we shall give them such help as we can".

NON-OFFICIAL COMMITTEE VIS-A-VIS OFFICIAL COMMITTEE

Shah Nawaz Khan announced in a meeting of the 'Netaji Smarak Samiti' (Memorial Committee) held in Calcutta on the 6th October, 1955, in which he was the President, that the Prime Minister(Nehru) was not in favour of setting up an

contd....2..



: 3 :

go abroad to ascertain definitely whether Netaji was dead or not.

(v) The danger of a Non-official Committee, coming into existence and functioning soon and which was expected to announce a finding that Netaji was not dead, as the sponsors of that Committee were generally of that view, worried our administrators at Delhi. This, coupled with the fact that the documents, left by the British rulers, as a result of their and the American's thorough on-the-spot enquiries, soon after the alleged incident and which are in the possession of our Government, did not reveal the truth of Netaji's death as convincing, apparently made our Prime Minister to change his original plan and form this Official Committee, and also because the formation of the Non-official Committee, as anticipated, would not only be a challenge to his statements in the Parliament, but may also go to the extent of disproving those statements.

It is really puzzling to persons, who have little knowledge of international affairs, but are possessed with the usual amount of common sense to realise that an enquiry as to whether Netaji is dead or not, should be the duty of the Japanese Government and not of the Indian Government, but in the course of the next few months, the common sense view was eventually accepted in preference to the other and the Nehru Government on its own initiative, formed a Committee for making an enquiry, which, it had only recently said, was not at all necessary. A pressing necessity must have arisen for a sudden change in a long-standing plan and conviction.

After getting the information through Shahnawaz Khan that a Non-Official Enquiry Committee was going to be formed

contd...4.

under the Chairmanship of Dr. Radhabinod Pal, the eminent Jurist of international fame, Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru hurriedly changed his original plan and formed the Official Committee, and appointed Shri Shahnawaz Khan as the Chairman and Shri S.N. Maitra, a member of the Indian Civil Service, as nominee of the Government of India and also appointed late Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, as Non-Official member, from Netaji's family. It is curious that none of the members of the Enquiry Committee had any experience of conducting any such enquiry. Shri Shahnawaz Khan was only a colonel at the time of surrender. The Committee had no power to decide its own course of action. As a result, the Committee could not go anywhere except Tokyo to examine the witnesses. The Committee was not formed under the Commission of Inquiry Act. It had no judicial status.

The session of the Committee was in Camera. The witnesses were not allowed to cross-examine. The citizens of India had boycotted the Committee as this was a 'sham' Enquiry Committee' to hoodwink the people of India and they were not asked to co-operate with the Committee along with legal assistance. None of the witnesses was cross-examined.

The people of India clearly understood that the Enquiry Committee had been formed an eye wash. The administration realised the danger of a Non-Official Enquiry Committee coming into existence and functioning very soon. The people were convinced that duty of the Official Committee would be to establish the Prime Minister's statement on 05.03.1995 in the Parliament - "I have said that the question of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's death, is, I think, settled beyond doubt".

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(88)

: 5 :

Then why was this enquiry held? The only simple answer to this would naturally be that there must have been a pressing necessity that compelled the ordering of this enquiry to frustrate the formation of a 'Non-Official Enquiry'.

The apprehension was become real when the Chairman of the Netaji Enquiry Committee(1956), made a statement to the Press in Tokyo, on the night of the 4th May, 1956, immediately on arrival at the Airport there, that, "his mission was mainly to interview people, who might offer direct evidence on Shri Bose's death". The said statement of the Chairman was reported in some of the newspapers in India on the 6th May, 1956.

According to Shah Nawaz Khan, after his release from detention in 1946, he used to reside in the house of Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru. So, he was selected as Chairman of the Committee in spite of the fact that there were more competent senior Military and Civil Officers in the INA, who could conduct the Enquiry in a proper way. But the Prime Minister did not take the risk in selecting one of them as Chairman of the Committee.

Prime Minister's confidence on Shah Nawaz Khan had become true. He submitted report to the effect that 'Netaji died in an Aircrash at Taihoku on 18th August, 1945. The only Non-Official member of the Committee, Late Shri Suresh Chandra Bose, submitted 'Dissentient Report' - that Netaji did not die in the Aircrash. But that Report was not published by the Government alongwith the Official Report.

contd....6....



When Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan appointed Chairman of the Netaji Enquiry Committee he was then the Parliamentary Secretary of the Congress Parliamentary Party and obviously, he was a member of the Congress party. Soon after the submission of the Report, he was elevated to the post of Union State Minister of Railways.

So, his appointment to the post of Chairman of the Committee is motivated, malafide and against all judicial norms. He was appointed to suit the purpose of the then administration.

After meeting Mountbatten at Singapore, Jawaharlal Nehru brought the foundation slab of 'INA Memorial', destroyed by Mountbatten, when Nehru was staying as his guest. After returning India Nehru handed it over to Shah Nawaz Khan, who had been residing with Nehru at Allahabad. Shah Nawaz Khan sent it to his native place in Pakistan, without informing anybody of the INA Personnel.

In addition to the above reason, the appointment of Netaji Enquiry Commission (1970) under the Commission of Inquiry Act, ipso facto a nullity of the Report of Netaji Inquiry Committee (1956).

संस्कृत-संस्कृत  
GROSS: ARCHEION



S. SARKAR  
Director General of Archives  
Tele./Fax : 011 3383436

राष्ट्रीय अभिलेखागार, भारत  
जनपथ, नई दिल्ली-११०००१  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA  
JANPATH, NEW DELHI-110001

27 JAN 1997

Dated the

Subject: Release of unpublished archival materials related to I.N.A.,  
Netaji, transfer of power.

My Dear Dr. Pal,

Kindly refer to your letter dated 7.12.1996 on the subject  
cited above.

As you are aware that National Archives of India is  
basically catering to the needs of the research scholars,  
administrators and seekers of information in the pursuit of their  
research/publication work. In this process, all public records which  
are more than 30 years old, available in National Archives of India,  
are generally open to scholars for consultation, barring a few  
records of sensitive nature pertaining to Jammu & Kashmir including  
Gilgit & Chital.

Faced with the problem and ever-increasing demand for access  
to public records from the scholarly world, the Government of India  
constituted the Indian Historical Records Commission as an advisory  
body for tendering advice on the use of archives by the scholars.  
You might be aware that 55th Session of the Commission held at  
Jadavpur strongly felt the need for providing access to public  
records which are more than 30 years old and transferred to National  
Archives of India for permanent preservation of records of enduring  
value. The 56th Session would now take place in the first week of  
February 1997 at Jabalpur. I am sure, the demand for liberalisation  
of access to records would be raised and discussed in this national  
forum (IHRC Session).

National Archives of India would be celebrating the birth  
centenary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in a befitting manner by  
organising an exhibition based on original records, photographs,

...2/-



private papers and newspaper clippings. You will also be glad to know that after the 55th IHRC Session, this Department had mounted a permanent exhibition entitled 'Jhansi Rani to Jhansi Regiment' in the premises of Salimgarh Fort (Red Fort), Delhi. Another exhibition on the RIN Mutiny, 1946 emphasising on the encompassing impact of the INA was organised by this Department which was highly acclaimed by the visitors including some of the participants and the first Admiral of India.

National Archives of India, as usual, would be streamlining the accessioning of the non-current records from various Ministries/Departments of Government of India. In the process, we do hope to acquire invaluable records from the Ministry of Defence, which would be definitely having mines of information pertaining to the period 1939-1946/47. As and when our efforts for acquiring these records would be materialised, we would surely organise exhibition and bring out publication.

Wishing you a happy new year and with regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(S. SARKAR)

Dr. Madhusudan Pal,  
C/o R.R. Pal,  
32/3/5B, Sahitya Parishad Street,  
(Ground Floor),  
Calcutta-700 006.

**PROTOCOL**

**OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE  
ASIATIC SOCIETY CALCUTTA,  
INDIA AND THE INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL  
STUDIES MOSCOW, RUSSIA,  
FOR BRINGING OUT WORKS  
REFLECTING TIES  
BETWEEN  
INDIA AND RUSSIA**

PMO (NGO)  
Dy. No. 44/4/48  
Date 2-4-48

In terms of article 68 of the Programme of Cultural, Scientific and Educational Exchange between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation for the years 1993-1995, the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow, Russian Academy of Sciences and the Asiatic Society, Calcutta agree to a joint programme for bringing out collected works on the age old ties by delving into the past to search for the roots of the cultural links between India and Russia since the 15th century and beyond, with special reference to the 19th century and first part of the 20th century that is up to 1917 in three volumes (vol.1, vol.2, vol.3) and another volume based on archival materials in Russia from 1917 to 1947 (vol.4).

1. The Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow will be responsible financially and otherwise for :

a) Compilation of the texts by exploring the original materials and executing the initial processing of the documents of the Russian archives in connection with the Indo-Russian political, economic, cultural, spiritual, scientific military and other relations of the 19th century (vol.1) and of the begining of the 20th century (vol.2).

b) Scientific processing and preparation of the annotations of the collected documents. Preparation of the bibliography and indexes of geographical and other names.

2. The total work of the first volume of approximately 800 typed pages relating to the 19th century period has been xeroxed and made ready by the 15th September 1994. The

- 2 -

Asiatic Society, Calcutta is already collaborating with the scholars of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow in this matter.

3. The second volume Indo-Russian Relations of the first part of the 20th century (upto 1917) will be of approximately 800 pages (typed) and will be ready by the end of 1996.

4. The Asiatic Society will bear the cost of translation from Russian to English as well as the publication of volume 1 (19th century) and volume 2 (20th century upto 1917).

5. The Asiatic Society, Calcutta will be entirely responsible for the volume 3 relating to the earlier period from the 15th century and beyond. The last volume (vol.4) is to be based on archival materials in Russia from 1917 to 1947, especially related to the Indian Freedom Movement. For collecting materials for vol.3 and vol.4 the Russian Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow shall offer necessary academic cooperation.

6. Indian scholars will be deputed by the Asiatic Society, Calcutta from time to time to execute this work with the help of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow. Under a stipulation for exchange of scholars, a research professor of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta will visit Russia periodically for three years and one research professor from the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow will work periodically in the Asiatic Society, Calcutta during the project period.

7. The Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow will welcome suggestions from the Asiatic Society, Calcutta and agrees to induct the related materials of the Indian archives into the works. It is noted that withdrawing of individual documents from the archives should be avoided, except when temporarily needed for terminological indexing.

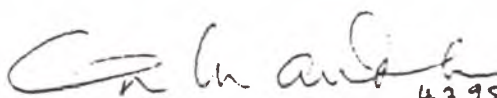
8. On behalf of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow, the chief editor of the first phase of the project and on behalf of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, Research Professor of the Asiatic Society, are responsible for any matter arising in connection with the first phase of the project.

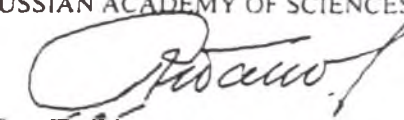
9. This Protocol does not stipulate any agreement to be negotiated with the publishers for this purpose. The publication of the English works by the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, comprising the volumes 1,2,3 should be completed by the end of 1997, preferably.

10. After the publication, 25 free copies of each volume must be sent to the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow.

FOR THE ASIATIC SOCIETY  
CALCUTTA

FOR THE INSTITUTE OF  
ORIENTAL STUDIES, MOSCOW  
RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

  
(DR. CHANDAN ROYCHAUDHURI)  
GENERAL SECRETARY

  
(DR. R. B. RYBAKOV)  
DIRECTOR



Copy of a letters from Khurshed Naoroji to Louis Fischer  
22/7/46

Dear Fischer -

I enclose a copy of Gandhiji's letter, as desired by you. But please don't think that he is not with us. I have been with him since my release from prison and he put the constructive Programme before the country which was overlooked by the working Committee when they decided on constitutional methods.

Since the release of his colleagues of the Working Committee he has gone with them because they were not prepared to go with him but Gandhiji is essentially a man of action and when the time comes, he will take the country with him.

The Socialists are merely implimenting the constructive programme in the light of present circumstances, We must go to the people and forge mass sanctions. The people want to know the shape of things to come. Grouping of the provinces or the question of sovereignty does not touch them, they want a plan. Let our leaders go to the Govt. sponsored Constituent Assembly and we remain with the people to share their joys and sorrows. When the time comes we shall be one.

The Socialists do not want violence any more than does Gandhiji but what is practiced non-violence, we say nonkilling. We have to put non-violence in to practice and not just go talking of truth of non-violence. People want deals and not words. For twenty years we have talked on the ideal Govt. and the practical stage for us today is Panchayat Raj. Our people are very patient but even their patience is wearing thin. All Congress and the nationist minded people are one but our headache is the Indo-Anglo-Russians. The foreign Govt. has built them up to fight the Congress and will have to deal with them now. They are going underground and if before the time the Allies (excluding Russia), have a scrap with Soviet Russia, India is not satisfied

with the results of the Constituent Assembly. She will go over entirely and absolutely to the enemies of the Allies. The Indian army (not the Indian National Army) is no longer of the same temper as it was in the first world war. Besides the disaffection amongst the Indian officers and the rank and file, a revolutionary group has been working amongst them and they are pro-Russian. There have been many cases a court martial in the Indian army on individuals and platoons during the last war both in India and abroad. There have been mass desertions in the regular army and minor reaps in the N.W.F. Province at the beginning of the last war.

At heart the Indian army is sympathetic with the Indian National Army. If Bose comes with the help of Russia neither Gandhiji nor the Congress will be able to reason with the country. Also Russia for propaganda purposes declares itself an Asiatic country then there is no hope of any European alliance acceptable to India. Freedom for India under the aegis of Soviet Russia is no freedom for us: but it now rests with England to play fair by the people of India or be declared by us for ever as the enemy of India and of the Asiatics. There are other groups in north India pro-Russian, but after Russia joined the Allies they lost caste. However the bitterness towards the English is so great that Russia will again come into favour on the event of any disagreement amongst the Allies.

Gandhiji is not touched with the international reactions but we can't afford to neglect the signs of the time specially when it concerns our freedom.

Yours,  
Khurshed

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A Press note on the materials collected from the Russian archives  
by  
Dr Chandan Roychaudhuri, General Secretary, The Asiatic Society, Calcutta  
in the second phase of its collaboration with the Institute of Oriental Studies,  
Moscow

In pursuance of a cultural agreement recently signed between the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, and the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow, a project has been undertaken to compile accessible materials, now available in the Russian archives, pertaining to Indo-Russian relations from the earliest period to 1947. During May-September, 1994, Dr Purabi Roy (Jadavpur University), Honorary Senior Research Fellow, who was deputed by the Asiatic Society to undertake this work in Russia in the first phase of this project covering Indo-Russian relations up to 1917, she compiled very interesting and significant materials from 10 archives in Moscow.

In the second phase of this project, covering Indo-Russian relations between 1917 and 1947, a team of three scholars, namely Dr Purabi Roy (Jadavpur University), Dr Hari Vasudevan (Calcutta University) and Dr Sobhanlal Dutta Gupta (Calcutta University), was sent by the Asiatic Society to the Russian Federation during May-August, 1995. They worked in the Russian archives as Visiting Fellows of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow during this period. The team has just returned and brought back with them immensely valuable materials, virtually unknown to scholars till now. The bulk of the materials is in Russian and English and there are also some materials in German and French.

The period between 1917 and 1947 is of special interest in view of the fact that after the October Revolution, the Soviet Union became a source of inspiration to liberation movements in the countries in Asia, particularly India, under colonial rule. Many Indian revolutionaries, who were in exile, shifted their centre of activity to the Soviet Union during that period. The documents of that period, now in possession of the scholars, will reveal unknown chapters of the international communist movement and different stages of the Indian freedom movement. Some materials, in fact, contradict the hitherto known facts.

The team has collected materials from the following archives in Moscow, which were not covered in the first phase of the project:

1. Archives of the Comintern
2. Archives of the Central Committee
3. State Archives of the Russian Federation
4. Russian State Archives of the Economy

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5. Archives of the Academy of Sciences
  6. State Archives of Army History
  7. State Archives of Soviet Army
  8. Archives of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Russian Federation.

The materials collected are in the form of photo copies, microfilms, hand-written notes of more than 1,000 pages. The Asiatic Society now is also in possession of a selective index of a vast number of files available in the Russian archives. All these, besides enriching the collection of the Asiatic Society, will also greatly help the scholars interested in studying different aspects of Indo-Russian relations during 1917-1947. The following illustrations provide an idea of the range and nature of the materials collected by the team of scholars:

1. Materials relating to the activities of Indian revolutionaries in Russia in the 20s and 30s, namely M N Roy, Abani Mukherjee, one of the founders of the Indian Communist Party abroad, who was collecting arms to fight the British imperialists, Virendranath Chattopadhyay, brother of Sarojini Naidu, M. Acharya, G. Luhani and many others.

A special mention has to be made of very rare material on Raja Mahendra Pratap, who formed a Government of free India in exile, viz. his lectures, letters and statements, including his letter of October/November 1916, where he is seeking permission of passage through Russia in order to visit China and Japan. In course of his revolutionary activities in the Soviet Union Mahendra Pratap kept in touch with Indian leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. Besides, a number of letters of Rahul Sankrityayan have been unearthed from different archives. These include a letter to his friend dated 30 August, 1935 seeking permission to visit the USSR.

[What appears to be most interesting is that the scholars have traced materials hinting at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's contact with the Soviet leaders. Some documents relating to Netaji are in the KGB and President's archives which were not accessible to the scholars. Special permission is required to scrutinize them. It is believed that examination of these materials may eventually clear the mystery of Netaji's disappearance.]

2. The documents of the Comintern, which used to guide and control the international Communist movement, are of special significance. Valuable documents of the Comintern on India, previously unknown, have been unearthed. These include materials relating to Comintern's secret contact with the CPI through emissaries; studies on India not intended for public circulation and meant for study by leading Comintern officials; names and records of activists, who were sent to India by India specialists in the Soviet Union to carry on practical work; relation between such activists and the CPI during World War II; stenographic records of the Indian Commission set up by the Comintern; documents prepared on India from time to time by the Eastern Secretariat of Comintern; such documents as Bukharin's written



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observations on India in 1928 and Roy's critique; Stalin's written alteration of the Draft Resolution on the colonial question in 1924; Draft colonial thesis of M N Roy in 1921; thesis on India and world revolution by Virendranath Chattopadhyay in 1921; Maulana Barakatullah's note to Comintern on Indian revolution in 1927; new materials on India in the Sixth Congress in 1928; materials relating to CPI's contact with the Communist Party of Great Britain etc.

3. Materials relating to Soviet attitude towards South Asia, especially at the level of policy making; photocopies of statements by leading personalities concerned with Oriental Studies (e.g. M Pavlovich Veltman) and several other figures, who were responsible for observing South Asian affairs in 20s and 30s (S F Oldenburg, Tubyanskii); documents of 1947 indicating the criticism of the CPI by the CPSU.

4. Very interesting documents of this period have been located in the archives of the Ministry of External Affairs: the activities of the Soviet agents in British India; secret notes and information about the Indian political situation; interactions of the official and non-official personalities of the two countries received through Afghanistan; papers and correspondence of the 'Asian Relation Conference'; a very special interview with Sarojini Naidu and developments over the appointment of Mrs Vijayalakshmi Pandit as the first Indian Ambassador to the USSR. Apart from these, there are many more documents of this nature in this archives.

The materials are now being processed and catalogued by the Asiatic Society and scholars will be allowed access to these as soon as the work is completed.



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22/7/46

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Yours,  
Khurshed

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( Internationaler Biographischer Pressdienst.

( International Biographic Press Service )

SUBHAS CHANDRA BASU

The fact is being gradually embodied from the contemporary events that Subhas Chandra Basu the Indian Revolutionist, who was declared dead in an air-crash after the Second World-War, is waiting for an opportunity to hold his grip over the political back-ground of Asia.

BABU BOSE : MANN HINTER DEN FRONTEN. ( MAN BEHIND THE FRONT. )

There has been a nuclear explosion by the side of India in October last, which is of a political nature and experimental only. But it has been inevitably resulted in. It came to be known within a few days by a radio announcement that Subhas Chandra Basu, the lost Indian Revolutionist, might deliver a speech over the Communist Radio of Peking. Of course, nothing has been heard after this mysterious announcement. But nobody said that he had a doubt that Shri Basu was actually alive. One thing more ; just at that time, when such a type of epochmaking political explosion took place at the north of Himalayas, Shri Nehru who was once a colleague and at present in opposition to Shri Basu was found to be staying in Washington at the invitation of President Truman. Is this just a sudden event ? Most of the Americans hoped that Shri Nehru would keep himself mum about this. Shri Nehru has done this. Of course he has said that he is ready to go to Moscow also if he be invited to go there. Did he understand from the outset of this incident that this event was a prologue for the advent of a man with a massive nuclear power ? As Lenin, in the revolutionary moment of 1917, reached Russia singling out Germany as his destination, Shri Basu also has once more adopted that measure for the interest of India.

It was this Basu who appeared in Tokyo directly within a year after his meeting with Hitler in May, 1942. The mystery how this dauntless expedition became possible in this war-ravaged Eastern Hemisphere of the World, has not yet come to light. But it was sure that Hitler had helped him by providing longranged aeroplanes, U-Boats, Blockade-breakers and many

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No. 44/1948  
Date 7-4-48



other war-materials. Shri Basu, perhaps, considered the U-Boat expedient for his journey. The way of his disappearance from India secretly, in January, 1941, was dangerous too. Only at the age of sixteen, school student Shri basu had once left for the himalayas as a lonely and helpless visitor and roamed about from temple to temple in search of the eternal truth. This anti-British man had acquired the art of disguise accurately, while he was a student at the University of Cambridge. During his stay in Vienna between 1932 and 1935, he had acquired the art of face make-up from an Indian residing abroad. A picture, entitled "The Tiger of Ishanpur" was being prepared in Germany under the direction of that man at that time. This skill became useful to him, when, in February, 1941, he succeeded to reach Kabul with a view to meet the German Ambassador in Afghanistan throwing dust in the vigilant eyes of the Indo-British rulers, inspite of the warrant of arrest against him. At last the Italian Embassy assigned an Italian name to him and gave him a false passport as an Italian national.

Ten years before this incident, he was once a guest of Mussolini during his journey from Vienna to Rome. But this time, he was eager to meet Hitler and Ribbentrop as soon as possible. His first destination was Berlin. He crossed the border of Germany as an assistant of a German Engineer and arranged for visiting Moscow as a foreign tourist. The journey to Moscow through the Caucasus was decided, be it well or worse. The Indian Shri Basu did not know Italian but could understnad Russian a little. But the Soviet people thought him to be a veterm through his gesture and posture. He did not utter a single word in the Passport Department and had spent a week in a comfortable room of a train taking, tea, milk, vodka and a large amount of beef. This was a matter of immense mental strength for a Caste-Hindu like him. But nothing such was improper to the superstition-less revolutionist Shri Basu. It was known to the Russians that he deeply studied Bolshevism as well as Facism. And both Mussolini and Stalin were his ideals. So, Kremlin greeted him warmly. Not a single word was uttered against him from Moscow, when he extended his support to Hitler and the Japanese. In the summer of 1933, he pronounced that no Asian could lend his support in favour of the Nazi Policy. But in 1942, when he put forward the proposal for the freedom-movement to the nation, he was convinced that Germany and japan, the enemy of the British, would naturally lend their support to the Indians fighting for freedom.

But he did not find days well in Berlin. He went on waiting for months in the secluded room of a hotel with the hope to get some response. But he became utterly disappointed when he saw that the Soviet Union was attacked by war-monger Hitler. He remarked, "In this world war, this event is the gross error". Shri basu then put some faith in Japan only. The participation of Japan in the Second World War suddenly brought about an unimaginable change in the South-East Asia, and, Shri Basu had played a great role in this political game of the world. He invaded Singapore and formed the Indian Revolutionary Government there. Accompanied by the Azad Hind Fauz through Burma. This was well-known to him, as he had passed through it as a Prisoner many times on his way to the Mandalay Jail.

This Revolutionary Army marching towards the Indian border had not been taken by the Indians as traitors, rather, was welcomed as heroes. And their "Leader" was Shri Basu himself.

There is a proverb in India, "A person who is declared dead before his death gets a prolonged life". There was, beforehand, a news at the outset of the last war, that Shri Basu had died in an air-crash. This False-news brought a lot of garlands and condolence-letters to the family of this man, who was already officially declared as a traitor, from every corner of the country. In spite of this, Gandhi could not agree with Mr.Nehru, the then leader of India, on this discussion. Gandhi remarked about this dangerous man that, "Whatever he may be, he is not an enemy of our country. He has helped to a great extent to get the freedom - movement advanced". Having heard this sad news in April, 1942, Gandhi wrote in a condolence letter to the mother of Shri Basu, "He is the great and heroic son of India". But after a few days, his voice was heard over radio.

Shri Basu has been again announced to be dead after the Second World War. This announcement is also the result of the joint proclamation of the Government and the Enquiry Commission of the Allied Powers. Though in a Broadcast from Tokyo, it has been announced that Shri Basu was wounded and was later dead in an air-crash on his way to Formosa from the Taihoku airport, none in the world has paid any heed to this news. No one in India has at all believed it. On 21st October, 1946, after a year



of this accident, the Inquiry Commission of the Allied Powers proclaimed the decision that Shri Basu had actually passed away on 18th August, 1945, in a military hospital in Formosa. But man like Gandhi declared later, that, according to their views, Shri Basu was still alive. The Government of India said that they could not declare Shri Basu to be dead. The elder brother of Shri Basu has remarked at a National Conference of India, "I know nothing about this". No news was collected from the citizens of Japan who were in Tokyo, till the day when the American soldiers entered Tokyo. The bodyguard of Shri basu saw a large and mysterious box with him on the day of his last departure.

No one has seen the body to be burning. Many experienced men of the East-Asia know that Japan announced many eminent persons to be "dead by air-crash" at the time of surrender. Subhas Chandra Basu, at the age of fifty, was man with good health, psychologically strong and a fore-seeing politician. Immediately after his joining with the Japanese, he had a doubt as to the result on the joint expedition of the Japanese army and his army. It can not be ignored that this strong and foreseeing man did not think for future. Was it now known to him how Moscow would utilise the Renaissance of Nationalism in Asia in the greater political game at present or in future ?

In 1945, when a chaos was prevailing over the whole of China on the victory of the Allied Powers, he could have easily enter into the Soviet Border in exchange of immense gold kept with him and leave for Moscow in a special plane to keep himself underground in a lonely place there. Then what does the news about his secret journey by a Steamer to Irish Free State mean, of which the British Port-authorities were not at all aware, yet Mr. Galahar, the leader of the British Communist Party has referred to on the occasion of a discussion on the freedom-movement of India ?

Mao-Tse-Tung's victory in Red China may open up opportunities for an unexpected victory of Subhas Chandra with the Kremlin's help. China

and India are in the same position. Like China India has also a united group of people / party. It will be possible to create conditions similar to those responsible for the development of China's present situation with a little strategy / planning and use of arms after the Chinese path.

Millions of people in India still believe that there will be a change after an epoch, the result of which will make this country once more a heavenly one.

BUDDHA FACED VETERAN YOGI SHRI BASU WILL, PERHAPS, ONCE BECOME THE MAO-TSE-TUNG OF INDIA. He has already occupied in a position of highest estimation in the Indian mind and one of his representatives now in India. He is his brother, Sarat Chandra Basu, who after recognizing the new Government of Red China immediately after its formation, gave a call for formation of a Federation of Asian countries. And it became possible for him to give the call only for his brother living incognito at present. Every year Mr. Basu's birthday is being celebrated with much fanfare. In the capital of India a Magazine entitled 'Netaji' ( the meaning of which is fuhrer ) is being published in regard to Mr. Basu. This year in the month of June, Mr. Sarat Basu has been elected as a member of All India Congress Working Committee.

Another important event was his journey to Switzerland. Lenin had himself in Switzerland . The people of the world know the political thoughts of Shri Basu.

To day if he and Marshall Stalin reach an agreement, he may deliver speeches from Peking Radio as he did from Berlin and Tokyo addressing his countrymen. But he has not done that yet. His immense influence has spread all over India.

If he remains alive and that is to be sure possible - the whole world, then, one day, will hear again his speech.



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## Govt apathy leaves Netaji's fate buried in Moscow's files

by I. Ayan Namboodiri

CALCUTTA, Sept 18: If historians are to be believed, two files lying in the archives of the disbanded KGB at Moscow may help solve the mystery shrouding the fate of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Netaji's death in an air crash in Taiwan's Taihoku airport in August 1945 remains to this day, the biggest enigma in the annals of the freedom movement. Even Mahatma Gandhi had refused to give credence to that story.

But a 'logic' aspect of the Netaji disappearance story is the continued apathy of the Indian Government. Scholars are finding it an uphill task to persuade the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to cooperate in order to unravel the truth behind the untimely death of the great nationalist leader.

Governments around the world are aware of the opportunities provided by the dissolution of the USSR. They are encouraging their historians to go through the Roberto secret archives in Moscow and dig out facts lost behind the cobwebs of the iron curtain.

"The Russian Government is

quite generous about opening up these archives," Dr Hari Vasudevan of Calcutta University's Russian Studies department told *Indian Express* here today. "But while scholars of most Western countries are making the most of the archives, we are suffering due to the quirky attitude of the MEA."

Dr Vasudevan had recently spent four months in Moscow as part of an Asiatic Society team studying and compiling material pertaining to Indo-USSR relations between 1917 and 1947.

Two other historians, apart from Dr Vasudevan were involved in the research. They are Dr Sobhanlal Dutta Gupta of Calcutta University and Dr Purabi Roy of Jadavpore University.

They required letters from the MEA to read the two files located at the KGB archives. The letter was a pre-requisite to obtain Russian Government's permission. But repeated requests to Salman Khurshid, Minister of State, and even the Prime Minister, went unheeded.

"The most the Government would condescend to do was send a

note verbale' in late 1991 seeking clarifications as to Netaji's presence in the USSR in 1945. "To this the Russians send a few lines repeating the worn out Soviet stand," Dr Vasudevan said. But as evidence shows, the new dispensation at Moscow was not very truthful either.

The trio spent four months at Moscow this year ferreting out papers pertaining to Indo-Soviet relations during 1917 to 1947. This followed an agreement between the Asiatic Society and the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow.

What is heartening about archival research at the Russian front is that, by now other countries - especially those from the West - have succeeded in cataloguing documents kept in the erstwhile CPSU, Comintern, Russian Federation, Russian State Archive of Economy, Archives of Army History, etc.

One notable success was attained by Sweden which cracked the mystery behind the Wallenberg disappearance in Stalinist USSR during World War II.

## BJP hails EC for calling all-party meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept 18: The Election Commission has called for an all-party meeting, inviting suggestions for conducting free and fair polls in the coming General Elections. The meeting is scheduled for September 28.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has welcomed the move and said the 'revival' of such pre-election meetings was long overdue. The party will also finalise its own set of recommendations at its Central office-bearers meeting here on September 22-23.

The BJP will use the occasion to highlight the delay in introducing a comprehensive electoral reforms bill in Parliament, despite the Government's assurance and unanimity on many aspects among various political parties.

Briefing reporters about the invitation from the Election Commission, Mr Krishan Lal Sharma, a general secretary said the Government must introduce the bill before the Lok Sabha elections.

The BJP will however seek immediate action from the Election Commission on two aspects - 'misuse' of Government aircraft and the Government-controlled electronic media during election campaigns.

A flight towards

Punjab Academy, Delhi



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NEW DOCUMENTS FROM MOSCOW'S ARCHIVES

NEWS FROM RUSSIA IN 1946 - BOSE IS ALIVE

( English rendering of Pabitra Kumar Ghosh's Article

Published in Bartaman on January 3, 1996 ).

In the erstwhile Soviet Russia no discussion on Netaji was allowed to take place and the Indian researchers had no access to Moscow's Archives. The iron curtain was lifted in 1992 and Alexander Vinogradov published an article entitled "The life and death of Netaji Bose" in a journal called Echo Planeti (Journal No. 22 ). With this began the process of informing people of Russia about matters relating to Subhas Chandra Bose.

Vinogradov in his article dealing with Subhas Chandra's life, work and Europe-tour talks about Subhas Chandra's visit to Prague, Warsaw, Berlin, Munich, Rome, Belgrade and Sofia (Bulgaria's Capital) and states ; "possibly during this period he ( Netaji) tried to contact the Soviet Govt." Documents relating to this matter should be searched out of Moscow's Archives". For Vinogradov, Netaji established contacts with the Soviet Govt. in 1936 and hence his emphasis on the necessity of an enquiry about this issue in the Soviet Archives. He informs that Amiyanath Basu took one of Netaji's letters to London for handing it over to the Soviet Diplomat in Britain and refers to how Bhagat Ram Talwar assisted Netaji in Kabul.

Vinogradov's article ends with the following comment ; "Justice Roy (Vinogradov says that he was

contd....



in the Tokyo trial ) informs that he was told by the Americans that there had not been any plane crash at Taihoku. Within the span of a long period the only plane that had crashed at Taihoku was an American, not Japanese, plane. Habibur Rahaman is dead and he is supposed to be the eye-witness of the plane crash. Whatever had been stated for years together by Habibur before his death are entirely false. He (Habibur ) made his observations under restrictions to cover up the truth and under the Vineer of his socalled disclosure he actually suppressed the truth.

According to Vinogradov, Gandhi, Nehru and Asaf Ali knew that Netaji had planned to go to Russia. He says ; "Bose, at that time, to them, was not a revolutionary, counter-revolutionary or a protagonist of totalitarian socialism. He was with them under the same banner and as such, there was no reason whatsoever for them to treat him as their competitor".

Another new information presented by him relates to Mountbatten's discussion with the king of England in 1945 on issues concerning Subhas Chandra Bose. The then Prime Minister, Clement Attleewrote a note on it. From Clement Atlee's papers, in 1973, it was found out, Atlee writes in this note ; "Considering all the situations it is very simple put Bose where he is and not to enquire about his release. There is greater possibility that the Russians might have received him". (Translated by scholars of the Asiatic Society).

contd.....

Vinogradov informs that according to one, of the documents collected by the British spies "Nehru received a letter from Bose in 1946" ( These documents were collected in 1946 ). He (Vinogradov ) writes ; "INA Defense Committee Secretary Asaf Ali confirmed that Nehru requested him to make 4 copies of the following note ;

"Bose was to-day, 24th August, 1945 at Dairen at 1.35 afternoon and together with General Sidei. He discussed how to proceed to Russian territory".

It was published in the Soviet News paper Pravda in 1946, writes Vinogradov, that Bose was in the Soviet Union. In the same period Soviet Ambassador in Kabul informed the Governor of Khost that Bose was alive. The Soviet Ambassador in Tehran Moradof also sent the message in 1946 -" Subhas is alive". Further, it was mentioned in the message that Soviet agent V.G. Syadnyats went to Moscow from Bombay in 1946 carrying an urgent letter from Nehru.

Vinogradov writes ; "the first Ambassador of independent India in Moscow, Vijaylakshmi Pandit immediately after returning from Moscow to Delhi stated that she would disclose something startling and with that purpose in view she also convened a press conference at Delhi. With all Indians awaiting a disclosure of new materials on Bose, however, Vijayalakshmi met her brother Nehru before the Press Conference which eventually flopped as she did not say anything new at the Conference.

contd.....

Stalin, points out Vinogradov, never thought about presenting Bose before the people of Soviet Union and if Netaji really needed Moscow's assistance, he could have led the movement for India's freedom from Moscow. At the initial stages, Forward Bloc, Communist Party and other political parties in India never requested the Soviet Union for unravelling the truth. But in 1973 letters to that effect were first sent to Breznev and later to Gorbachov.

At the end of Vinogradov's article, it is stated as editorial comment ; "The official initiative in Moscow and Delhi are maintaining silence regarding the truth of the fact of Bose"..... "Our Reporter Vinogradov has been working on it for a long period". .... "He is very much assured that related documents are lying in Moscow".  
( Translation by- Scholars of the Asiatic Society).



# THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

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## Pranab's mission revives Netaji's death row

From Subhamoy Chatterjee

CALCUTTA, Oct. 21 External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee's reported unscheduled airdash from New York to Germany yesterday to try and secure consent of Netaji's wife, Mrs Emily Shenkel Basu and daughter, Ms Anita Basu, on bringing "Netaji's ashes" from Japan has raked up the controversy over the great patriot's death in the Taihoku aircrash.



The Forward Bloc, veteran followers of Netaji and some of his close relations have also called into question, the motive of the ruling party at the Centre in attempting this at a time when some recent findings claim to have pointed to Netaji's having been in Siberian Russia a year after the alleged crash.

A front page news item in the mass circulation *Ananda Bazar Patrika* today reported that Mr Mukherjee's Berlin mission, apparently undertaken with the knowledge of the Prime Minister, was received with a sense of shock and suspicion by Netaji's ardent supporters. It was said in the story that Mr Mukherjee was trying to bring back the "ashes", kept in the Renkoji Temple near Tokyo for over four decades, to India so that the nation could pay a befitting homage to the great leader in his centenary year. The authorities in Japan, which the External Affairs Minister visited recently, had also expressed the wish that the "ashes" of the INA commander-in-chief be taken to his own country.

Commenting on this development, Forward Bloc's

general secretary Chitta Basu, said that the party made its position clear after the Prime Minister had issued a statement in Singapore that the Government of India could not bring back the ashes due to the Opposition of some political parties, indirectly implying Forward Bloc. Mr Basu said he had written to Mr Rao that the late Prime Minister, Morarji Desai, had told Parliament that the Government received some information subsequent to the findings of the Shah Nawaz Khan and Khosla Committees. On the basis of that it could be said that the aircrash was not the conclusive proof of Netaji's death. This continued to be the Government's position.

"Unless he died in the aircrash, how can you say that this was his ashes," the Forward Bloc leader asked. Mr Basu also said that he had a discussion with Mr Mukherjee at the personal level. The latter had said he would resume the dialogue which he never did.

Netaji's nephew, Mr Anuya Nath Basu, said he had written to the Prime Minister stating that there was sufficient evidence of Netaji's

being in Russia in 1946. He said that an American bomber crashed at Taihoku in 1944 and photographs of the wreckage "were attempted to be passed off as the damaged plane in which Subhas Chandra Bose was alleged to be travelling". He demanded that the Government of India ask the Government of Russia to allow examination of the KGB files and request the Governments of the UK and the USA to disclose their intelligence files about Netaji.

He alleged that a request had been made on behalf of the Government of India not to show any file regarding Netaji to Indian scholars visiting that country. The allusion was to the visit by a team from the Asiatic Society in Calcutta.

According to Mr Samar Guha, a Netaji's follower and a former member of the Lok Sabha, the Society team had stumbled on some "revealing facts" indicating that Netaji was in Omsk, a town near Bladivostok in Siberia. Similar indications were given by Mr Vinogradov, a Russian scholar, in a journal named "Echoplanety" in 1992.

Mr Guha alleged that the Society

scholars were not allowed to visit Omsk, Mr Mukherjee, he alleged, had summoned the Indian Ambassador in Russia, Mr Ramen Sen to Delhi and also met the Society scholars. He allegedly asked them "not to go ahead with their inquiries". It was after this that Mr Mukherjee visited Japan. He said Mr Mukherjee had tried to seek the consent of Netaji's wife and daughter before on the question of bringing the so-called ashes. Now he was trying his best as "things are coming to a climax".

Incidentally, there is a petition before the Supreme Court challenging the conferment of the Bharat Ratna to Netaji "posthumously".

Mr Anuya Nath Basu said getting the consent of Anita Basu who could not have any information regarding the Taihoku aircrash "has no probative value and is of no consequence". He said he had told the Prime Minister in his letter that it would be "an act of sacrilege to foist the Renkoji Temple ashes on the people of India when they are not the ashes of Subhas Chandra Bose".

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# Vietnam archives hold key to Netaji flight

FROM PRABHA  
JAGANNATHAN

## INDIAN GOVERNMENT RELUCTANT TO PURSUE LEAD

Ho Chi Minh City, Sept. 25: The city of Saigon may even today hold the key to a crucial missing piece of Indian history related to the disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose during World War II. Ironically, though, the Indian government seems reluctant to pursue this lead.

The government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has access to certain pictorial and documentary material on Netaji's last flight — during which he made a sojourn in Saigon city on his way to Taipei (Formosa) and Tokyo in Japan — before his final disappearance, according to the authorities.

"There is accessible material here on Netaji's stay in Saigon in 1945, when a large part of Indo-China was under Japanese domination. However, the Indian government is reluctant to pursue this lead, which is likely to help us unearth some exceedingly interesting material on Netaji's disappearance since it will reopen the entire issue," said a highly placed source.

However, Indian embassy officials, who admit the existence of "some material" including newspaper clippings related to the

event, dismiss this, saying, "The last thing we want is to embroil ourselves in another controversy over Netaji. Any talk of this is likely to get blown out of proportion immediately in India."

While some of this material was acquired by the government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the post re-unification period from the authorities at the Majestic Hotel, where Netaji was put up by the Japanese government, material on Netaji is also believed to have been accessed by the government here while collecting archival material on both the World War II and the Vietnam War period.

Located along the Saigon river, the Majestic Hotel, once considered the city's most elegant and prestigious.

Netaji is also believed to have met the Vietnam Cong Sai. (Vietnam Communist party) chief and father of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, as well as the Burmese leader, Bamo, as part of his war-time strategy to garner support for the INA and Azad Hind Fauj.

The Forward Bloc MP, Mr Chitta Basu, who has for years been trying to get the Indian govern-

ment interested in retrieving all archival material related to the 50-year-old mystery of Netaji's disappearance in 1945, said, "There are a lot of theories about Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's last flight in 1945. In 1943 (Octo-



ber 21), Netaji made Singapore his headquarters for declaring independence of Azad Hind from the British and opposition to the Allied forces. He met and discussed strategy with many leaders in the Southeast Asian region before he was flown on a Japanese plane in 1945 to Formosa.

Some evidence suggest that he did stop over at Saigon. Others claim it's just a smokescreen."

Mr Chitta Basu, however, personally met former INA members in Thailand and Singapore who confirmed that the Netaji did stopover in Saigon in 1945.

**Netaji Centenary:** Now involved in efforts to get the Rao government interested in a nationwide centenary celebrations of Netaji next year, Mr Basu, in 1990, presented both the Indian ambassador as well as senior government officials in Moscow with all the documents on Netaji. "I requested senior party officials to help in retrieving all material on Netaji by accessing their wartime archives. They agreed, but the Indian government did not pursue the matter," he said.

When Mr Rao became Prime Minister, Mr Chitta Basu met both Mr Rao and the human resource development minister, Mr Arjun Singh, besides the Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) officials on the issue.

He also wrote to "friendly governments" in Southeast Asia

as well as in UK, Taiwan, China and Japan. But nothing transpired and the Indian government showed no interest in the centenary celebrations, either.

Without the Indian government's active interest and support, Mr Chitta Basu stresses, there is no way of getting authentic information on what happened at that point of time in Indian history and the Freedom Movement.

**Supreme Court verdict:** Meanwhile, Netaji scholars and academicians in Calcutta are eagerly awaiting the Supreme Court verdict on the award of the Bharat Ratna to the Netaji, posthumously, by the Indian government.

The verdict, which is due at end October, is related to the contest of the award, both in the Calcutta High Court, and later, at the Supreme Court, as "fallacious, since the Netaji's demise has not been factually proved."

It is expected to restart the decades-old controversy on the Netaji's mysterious flight.

The government, which was asked by the Supreme Court to provide any evidence it may have on the issue, declined, arguing that all such information was classified.

Efforts are on to get the material declassified.



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Secret

PM's House

PM's desires to see the Top Secret file on "Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose". This may be made available to me urgently.

311-7-2-  
(Shakti Sinha)  
PS to PM  
10.4.99

Section Officer (NGO). PMO

The following four T.S. files on the subject, have been sent to PS to PM (Shri Shakti Sinha) separately.

- 10/4/99
- (i) G-12(12)/94-NTO
  - (ii) G-4(2)/95-NTO
  - (iii) G-16(3)/95-NTO, and
  - (iv) G-12(3)/98-NTO

10/4/99

above files sent  
to PS to PM by Secy. Bock  
(Shakti Sinha)

Seen. Thanks

8/2  
10/4/99

स.स.का. (एन.जी.ओ.)/PMO (NGO)

सा.सं./Dy ..... 6/29/5/99

दिनांक/Data..... 10/4/99

NTO Section.

Ref. PS to PM's Note dt. 10-4-98  
regarding T.S. file on "Netaji"  
Subhas Chandra Bose.

The following

(2) Four NTO files on the subject  
are sent herewith:-

- (i) G-12 (18)/94-NTO ✓
- (ii) G-4 (2)/95-NTO ✓
- (iii) G-16 (3)/95-NTO, and ✓
- (iv) G-12 (3)/98-NTO ✓

10/4/99

11/11/99  
11/11/99

PS to PM  
(Shri Shakti Sinha)

TS 47 PM 99 dt. 10/4

W. Secy  
Returned to (140)  
on 23/6/1999.

BY SPEED POST

TOP SECRETPRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

No. G-16(4)/2000-NGO

Dated the 24th July, 2000.

From: Ms. Archana Ranjan,  
Director,  
Prime Minister's Office,  
South Block,  
New Delhi-110011.

✓ To: Shri P.K. Sengupta,  
WBHJS(Retd.),  
Secretary,  
Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry,  
B-Block (Third Floor),  
11/A, Mirza Ghalib Street,  
Calcutta-700 087.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No.915/11/C/2/2000-Pol dated 4th July, 2000, the photo-copies of the following Top Secret/Secret files are forwarded:-

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>File No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
✓ 1.	✓ 23(11)/56-57-PM	(T.S.) - I.N.A. Treasure.
2.	✓ 2(64)/56-66-PM (Vol. II)	(T.S.) - 1. Death of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose. 2. Appointment of an Enquiry Committee to go into the circumstances of the death.
✓ 3.	G-12(18)/94-NGO	(T.S.) - Controversy regarding Netaji's death and bringing his ashes to India from Japan.
✓ 4.	G-16(3)/95-NGO	(T.S.) - Proposal to bring the mortal remains of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose from Japan to India.
✓ 5.	✓ G-4(2)/95-NGO	(T.S.) - Proposal to bring the mortal remains of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose from Japan to India - (Cabinet Meeting).
✓ 6.	✓ G-12(3)/98-NGO	(T.S.) ✓ Transfer of the Ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to India.
✓ 7.	✓ T-2(64)/78-PM	(Secret) - Death of Netaji Subhas Ch. Bose - Appointment of an inquiry commission to go into the circumstances of death.

2. Please acknowledge receipt.

✓ 3. It is further requested that while information contained in the 'Top Secret' papers may be made use of by the Commission, in camera, since these are classified as 'Top Secret', they may kindly consider not publishing the same.

Yours faithfully,

*Archana*  
(Archana Benjan )  
Director

Encls: As above.